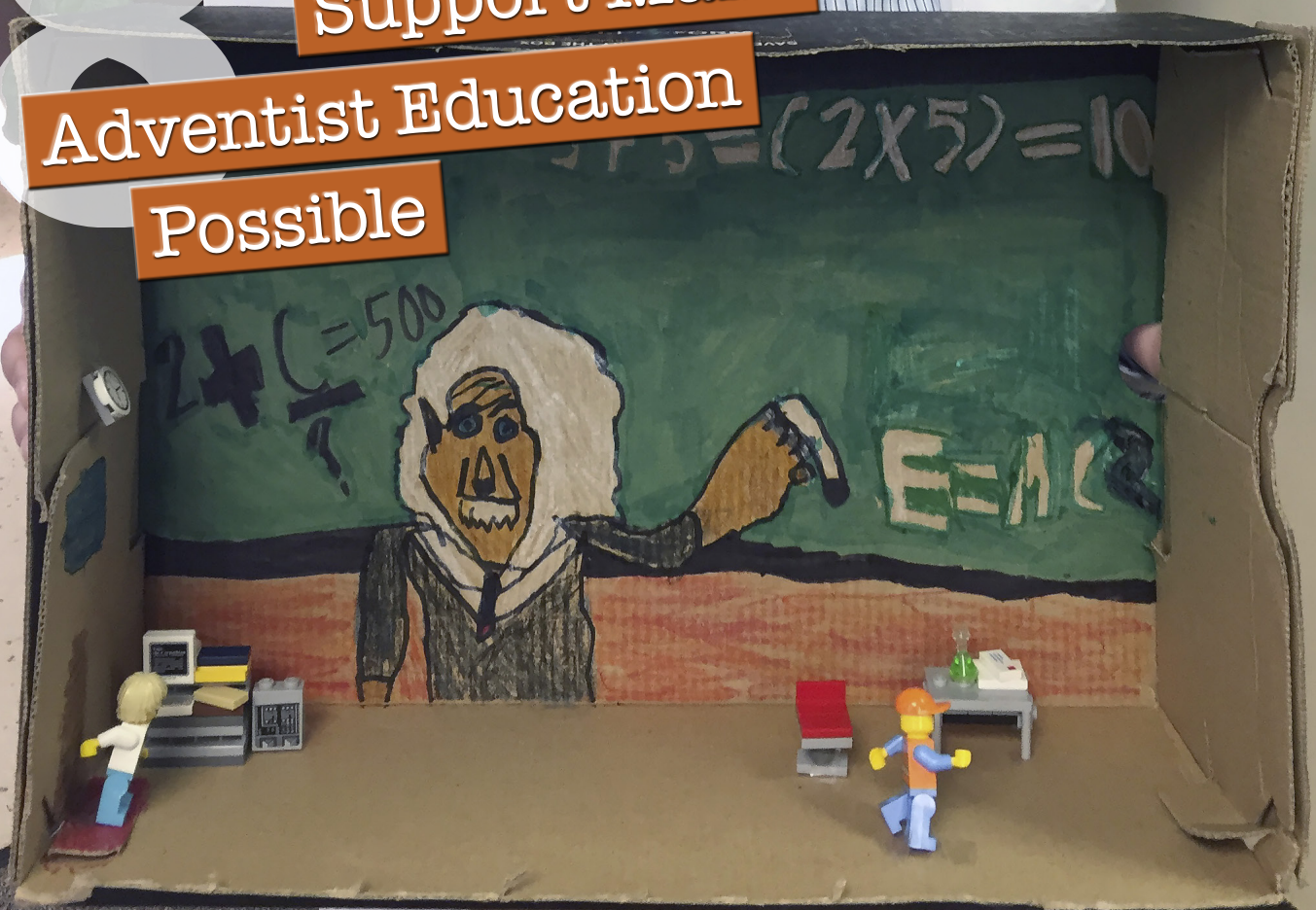



Recorder

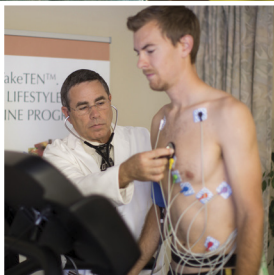
Prayers, Miracles,
Support Make
Adventist Education
Possible





Renew your health with TakeTEN.TM

Preventing and reversing disease is easier than you think.



TakeTEN. A proven, physician-led lifestyle medicine program.

You're unique, and so is your health. Our lifestyle medicine physicians, with our expert team of health professionals, will customize a plan that targets your diagnosis with comprehensive medical care that focuses on food as medicine, fitness and spirituality. This, combined with practicing ten proven health habits, will unlock your body's ability to heal and will enable you to achieve your health goals using the least medications. You will learn to thrive physically, mentally, socially and spiritually.

IN JUST TEN DAYS, YOU WILL:

- Reduce total cholesterol
- Decrease triglycerides
- Lower blood pressure
- Stop smoking
- Lower fasting blood sugar
- Lose weight
- Improve sleep
- Improve mood and boost energy

Invest ten days
in your health.
Join us in the
Napa Valley.

800.920.3438

www.lifestylemedicineinstitute.org

TakeTENTM

learn healthy > love healthy > live healthy

People of the Book

By Ricardo Graham, D.Min.

The older gentleman behind the counter at the dry cleaners didn't realize it, but he challenged me. He was commenting on his belief that an unspecified "they" are trying to get rid of cash in the American economy. He went further to say that he understood that the entire world would soon come under a one-world government.

He volunteered to me, his captive audience of one, that he believed this because his yearly reading of the Bible.

As someone else came into the dry cleaning store and took his attention, I left his establishment.

His words, however, continued to ring in my mind, but not the implied conspiracy. I focused on the fact that he said he had read the Bible all the way through every year for the last 20 years or so. I was impressed, and I asked myself how long had it been since I read the Bible through in one year. I can't actually remember.

I read the Bible every day as part of my devotions. It is important to me that I surrender daily to God on my knees and then read the Holy Scriptures. I once had a practice of reading a different translation of the Bible through every year just to challenge my understanding. But for some reason, I stopped.

I'm sure many of you also read the Bible daily. I hope it is a continual blessing to you like it is to me. As we focus on the inspired words, we are pointed to God and our great and awesome savior, Jesus Christ, the Anointed Son of God. I think the Holy Spirit used this gentleman's witness to encourage me to reinitiate reading the Bible through on an annual basis.

That is what I want and need for my life — the continual guidance of God. So, how about you, dear friend? Have you kept the reading and study of His Word as a continual practice?

I am not trying to guilt you into reading the Bible or deeper Bible study. But if we have slacked off the reading of the timeless counsel and presentations of God's ideals for our lives, we have missed a great opportunity to hear God speak to our souls.

I know I have written this before, but we seem to be nearing the end of earth's history. We know what Revelation 12:12 states; "Woe to the inhibitors of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

The devil knows his time is limited. It stands to reason that he is working with greater intensity to snare the souls of every human being. We don't have endless days and years before us. We really only have one moment at a time to grow closer to our great God, Jehovah.

"The people of God are directed to the Scriptures as their safeguard against the influence of false teachers and the delusive power of spirits of darkness. Satan employs every possible device to prevent men from obtaining a knowledge of the Bible; for its plain utterances reveal his deceptions. . . . The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested" (*The Great Controversy*, 593).

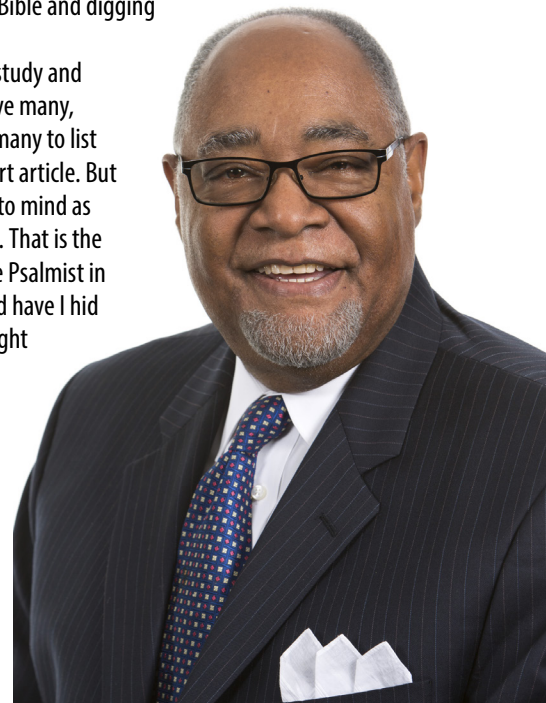
People older than me have told me that Seventh-day Adventists used to be known as "The People of the Book," the Bible. What about now?

I accepted the challenge to read the Bible through this year. Yes, a deep understanding of one passage can be more valuable than just plowing through from cover to cover. However, I have already re-encountered Jesus in the pages of Scripture.

With electronic versions of the Bible available free of charge on our ever-present mobile devices, what keeps us from frequently reading the Bible and digging deeper in the Word?

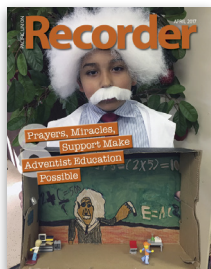
Bible reading, Bible study and Bible memorization have many, many benefits — too many to list exhaustively in this short article. But one text keeps coming to mind as I am writing this article. That is the powerful witness of the Psalmist in Psalm 119:11: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (KJV).

Sinfulness is being pressed all around us in every conceivable venue with greater intensity than ever before. I think that's a good reason to get into the Word.



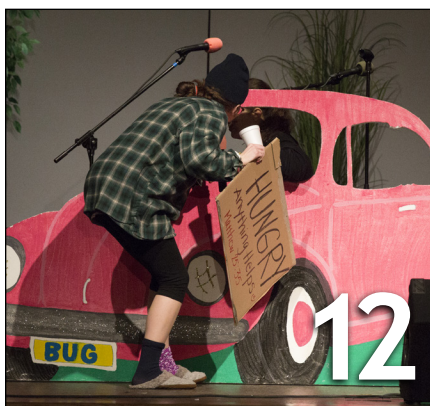
CONTENTS

- 19 Adventist Health
- 28-32 Advertising
- 20-21 Arizona
- 12-13 Central California
- 26-27 Church State Council
- 5 Hawaii
- 2425 La Sierra University
- 22-23 Loma Linda
- 15-18 Newsletters
- 10-11 Northern California
- 14 Pacific Union College
- 8-9 Southeastern California
- 6-7 Southern California



ABOUT THE COVER

Mesa Grande Academy third-grader Ezra Enciso shows off his Einstein report. April is Adventist Education Month.



PACIFIC UNION Recorder

Publisher

Ray Tetz — ray@puconline.org

Editor / Layout

Alicia Adams — alicia@puconline.org

Printing

Pacific Press Publishing Association
www.pacificpress.com

The Recorder is a monthly publication reaching approximately 76,000 Seventh-day Adventist homes in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah.

Our mission is to inform, educate and inspire our readers to action in all areas of ministry.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENTS

Adventist Health 916-781-4756
Jenni Glass — glassjl@ah.org

Arizona 480-991-6777
Phil Draper — phildraper@azconference.org

Central California 559-347-3000
Costin Jordache — cjordache@cccsda.org

Hawaii 808-595-7591
Jesse Seibel — jesseseibel@gmail.com

La Sierra University 951-785-2000
Darla Tucker — dmartint@lasierra.edu

Loma Linda 909-558-4526
Nancy Yuen — nyuen@llu.edu

Nevada-Utah 775-322-6929
Michelle Ward — mward@nevadautah.org

Northern California 925-685-4300
Stephanie Leal — sleal@nccsda.com

Pacific Union College 707-965-6202
Larissa Church — pr@puc.edu

Southeastern California 951-509-2200
Enno Müller — communications@seccsda.org

Southern California 818-546-8400
Betty Cooney — bcooney@sccsda.org

Postal Regs: The Pacific Union Recorder (ISSN 0744-6381), Volume 117, Number 4, is the official journal of the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and is published monthly. Editorial office is at 2686 Townsgate Rd., Westlake Village, CA 91361; 805-497-9457. Periodical postage paid at Thousand Oaks, CA, and additional mailing offices. Subscription rate: No charge to Pacific Union Adventist church members; \$15 per year in U.S.; \$20 foreign (U.S. funds); single copy, \$2. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: Circulation Department, Pacific Union Recorder, Box 5005, Westlake Village, CA 91359.

Youth Director Crushed by SUV, Lifted by Spirit

Pastor Erik VanDenburgh, Hawaii Conference youth director, has a passion for reaching youth and young adults with the gospel. This passion has led him into leadership roles in literature evangelism, summer camp, Pathfinders and more. Anyone who has seen VanDenburgh in action knows that this leader is a servant. It doesn't matter if it's a damaged roof, a plane engine or stalled car, he is willing to roll up his sleeves and fix it.

On Friday, Feb. 10, VanDenburgh was helping a friend fix his Toyota SUV when the vehicle popped out of gear and rolled onto his chest, crushing him between the front tire and the steep driveway. "I yelled out to my wife, Jana, who was inside getting ready for Sabbath, while at the same time prayed to Jesus to save me," VanDenburgh said. "A few seconds later my wife was by the side of the car asking what to do. I said, 'Get it off of me.' I was now out of breath and the weight of the SUV was crushing me.

"She tried to start it, but since it popped out of park, it wouldn't start. She immediately got out and went to the bottom where she began to push. I could see her legs and knew there was no way she could push it up the hill and off of me. It was at this moment that I knew

I was going to die. My life was slipping away from me very fast, and so I changed my prayer to one of accepting death and getting ready to see my Jesus. My only regret was that I would be leaving my wife with three boys to raise on her own for a quick and dumb mistake! Life is short enough, and I wanted to be there for my family.

"As I started to close my eyes, Jana remembered that she needed to put it in park in order for it to start. She instantly ran to the driver's seat and got it started. God saved my life and used Jana to do it!"

VanDenburgh was rushed to a hospital specializing in trauma where his injuries were confirmed: 11 broken ribs, six of which had multiple breaks; a punctured lung; a fractured scapula; a laceration to his scalp; and a lot of bruising and skin damage. Miraculously, no other internal organs were damaged.

Jana and Erik shared how God surrounded them with people instantly. Family, friends and

their faith community rallied around, petitioning God with prayer and flooding the hospital with warm bodies. As soon as they entered the hospital, the chaplain on call, a fellow church member, came around the corner. Soon after that, Jana's cousin, Tawni Kaplan, walked into the room. Having just landed on the island, she heard of the accident and canceled her nursing class to be at their side for the next week. Friends organized childcare, meal trains and prayer chains. Within a day, fundraising on social media began to help with out-of-pocket expenses.

Besides his regular duties as youth director, VanDenburgh was planning two evangelistic series in March. On Tuesday, Feb. 14, just days after the accident, his team of youth pastors gathered for their regular weekly meeting to go over plans for the upcoming evangelistic events. At VanDenburgh's request, they were meeting in his hospital room. God had saved his life, and he became more determined than ever to continue working with God to save others.

The pioneering initiatives are exploring new and creative ways to reach youth and homeless in Hawaii. With financial support from the Pacific Union, youth and young adults will lead these evangelistic meetings. One will be held in a homeless camp where VanDenburgh and his team of youth, young adults and volunteer interns will hold nine nightly meetings for around 300 children and adults.



Youth Department staff gather to support VanDenburgh's recovery and upcoming evangelism projects.



Erik and Jana VanDenburgh are raising three adventurous boys: Jacob, 9; Joel, 6; and Jaben, 3.



Jana (left) and Tawni (right) help Erik leave the hospital earlier than many expected.

Jesse Seibel

L.A.-Area Missionaries Have an Earl of a Time in Belize

PHOTOS BY ALLISON WAITE



Local members provided critical support to the L.A. Adventist Mission Ministry team. Back row (l. to r.): Ms. Blatham; Ainslie Richards; Allison Waite; Jason James; Fedly Bonneau; Ms. Fran; and Ms. Bailey. Front: Anonette Simpson embraces Devean Tucker.



Pastor Fedly Bonneau prepares to pass out shoes the group brought for the kids. Several children became known as his "security detail," because they walked everywhere with him.



Bonneau shares a devotional thought at Praise the Lord church in Dangriga before the team goes out to distribute school supplies.

The phone rang at about 3 a.m. local time in Valencia, Spain, on Aug. 3, 2016. "Pastor Fedly, I am getting a lot of calls from church members because of Tropical Storm Earl," said Antonette Simpson. "They are saying we shouldn't go to Belize because it won't be safe with the storm passing through."

"God will make a way for us, and we will be safe and sound," replied Fedly Bonneau, young adult pastor of White Memorial church. "As a matter of fact, they need us more now because there might be a shortage of supplies due to the storm."

On Aug. 4, Hurricane Earl began battering Belize as a Category 1 storm, destroying vegetation and houses and even cutting the electricity. The L.A. Adventist Mission Ministry team, as they call themselves, made up of people from various churches in Los Angeles, landed in Belize City on the morning of Aug. 6.

The team included Louise Bennett; Bonneau; Jason James of North Carolina; Candy Rivera of the Eagle Rock church; Devean Tucker; Simpson; and Allison Waite from the Breath of Life church.

"This trip had been planned since November last year, and we pushed it from June to August," said Pastor Gelder Gamboa, Belize Union youth director. "God knew the team needed to come for such a time as this."

Daina Gail Lewis and her mother, Joy Martinez, opened their home to the team. "It's was a no-brainer to have the team stay at our house," said Lewis. "They left L.A. to come help out my country, my people — and this was us saying thank you."

Outside their home, a group of kids from the neighborhood raced up and down the block. Bonneau asked if he could join the game. "We raced better than what was happening in Brazil at the Olympics," he joked. More importantly, it began a friendship with kids they would minister to every night.

"That was the highlight of the trip for me, being a track guy, meeting the kids where they were and ministering every night to these children," said Jason James. "What more can you ask for?"

Ainslie Richards, district pastor in Dangriga, had a team of church members who walked door-to-door with the L.A. Adventist Mission Ministry team, passing out "bags of blessings," which included food, clothing, diapers, school supplies and female hygiene products. Along the way, they met members of the Adventist church who had stopped attending. Some decided to return because they saw the church meeting people's needs.

The team had fun delivering an electric wheelchair to a family that needed it for their child. "When Fedly told me about this family, I was like, 'Oh boy! How are we going to pull this one off?'" Simpson explained. "Fedly gave me the 'God will work it out' speech — and he was right!"

"As I look back on the trip, God is so good," Bonneau noted. "We didn't get our first drop of rain until we were in the car heading to the airport to return home."

Fedly Bonneau and Lauren Armstrong

New Van Ministry Is a Drop in the Ocean of God's Love

San Pedro Ports O' Call had an unusual visitor one sunny Sabbath afternoon. A missionary van from the San Pedro Lighthouse group arrived at the marina seafood restaurant's side parking lot at 2:45 p.m. Volunteers Didier Gonzalez, Abigail Gonzalez, Marina Sousa, Pati Lawrence, Maricarmen Vega, Todd Ho and family, Jeremy Nakazawa and Nancy Bogdanovic, R.N., FNP, were on hand.

"We did blood pressure and blood sugar screening, as well as body mass index measurements to check body-fat levels and checked their vision and weight," said Maricarmen Vega. The Southern California Conference supported the vision of reaching the San Pedro community by encouraging health awareness with free health screening services.

"The volunteers were all smiles as they shared with visitors," added Vega. "Ports O' Call was buzzing with people coming and going, and Lighthouse volunteers mingled and directed people's attention to the van. The screening results helped unlock a door to each visitor's health status. A total of 20 contacts were reached



From left, Nancy Bogdanovic, Marina Suaso, Micah Anderson and Caroline Anderson with a resident being screened.

with both physical and spiritual blessings. Nurse practitioner Nancy Bogdanovic was busy educating and encouraging a healthy lifestyle."

Pati Lawrence served as a nurse assistant, reading weight and body-fat levels. Marina Sousa invited people in for screenings. At times, an improvised waiting room just outside the van was full of people laughing and chatting. "The Spirit of God was most certainly in our midst," noted Vega, "directing the traffic toward the little missionary post that appeared so simple and unassuming, while doing a work for God!"

"It was a blessing to be able to share my testimony," said Todd Ho.

"I was diagnosed as diabetic in 2013. Changing my diet to lose weight and get off medication has changed my life for the better. Being able to share my experience with those who are heading down the path of being diabetic, I was able to give personal-experience input into the importance of a healthy diet and getting their vision checked because of the effects that diabetes can have on vision."

"This van ministry is so important to the community because many whom we assisted don't have insurance and may not have ever known that they are on their way to having health problems," Ho added. "Like many we served, I am looking forward to this event happening more often."

"It was awesome to see our Lord's blessing on our health ministry and His blessing to those tested who are now aware of important lifestyle changes to make and keep them healthy," said Lawrence. "I believe this was a lifesaver to some."

Didier Gonzalez, lead driver for the van ministry, brought everything together. He purchased the vehicle from a man named Jesus. Then he rehabbed the van with his own money. "I will do whatever it takes to keep this van ministry alive, at all costs," he said.



From left, Didier Edwardo Gonzalez Jr. and his father, Didier Gonzalez, help a local resident take the vision test.

Nancy Bogdanovic, R.N., FNP

Prayers, Miracles and Generous Support Make Adventist Education Possible

April is Adventist Christian Education Month across the Southeastern California Conference, providing many opportunities to tell the stories of God's provision for eager students of all ages. Many Adventist parents want their children to be educated in church school. They are willing to make great sacrifices, but still struggle to make their dreams a reality.

Schools across the conference work diligently to provide opportunities for students to earn scholarships, participate in support programs and receive the assistance needed to enable them to study in Adventist schools.

Nancy Luna attends Vista Spanish church. When her oldest son, Brian, was in ninth grade, she wanted more than anything for him to attend an Adventist school. But as a single mother of two children, she saw no way to make that dream possible. Instead of accepting defeat, she and her children began to pray for a way where they could see none. Unexpected financial assistance gave Brian the chance they were praying for, and he enrolled in **Escondido Adventist Academy**.

It wasn't long until Brian's little brother, Osmar, was asking to go to Adventist school, too. Again, Luna and her boys started praying for a miracle, and again, unexpected finances showed up. Osmar participates in a scholarship program for elementary students, "adopting" a local senior citizen and visiting them. He spends regular time with an elderly woman, bringing her yummy treats, singing Sabbath school songs and just sitting and talking.

"I am so happy to see her smile when we visit," Osmar said. "She is so excited for us to keep coming, and she always wants to know when we will come again!"



Mesa Grande Academy kindergartener Rylie Purse makes a paper bag puppet.



First-graders gather for fun at Orangewood Academy.

Luna said she could not be happier that her boys are receiving an Adventist education.

"We have always attended church, but I was so afraid of the influences of public high school," Luna said. "I am so blessed that God has provided the opportunity for my boys to benefit from Adventist education! This experience has taught me that God can make anything possible if you are willing to pray and ask and have faith in His will."

"When you look at many of our school families, all the odds are against their children attending an Adventist school," said Corinne Robinson, business manager at Escondido Adventist Academy. "But by God's grace, their children are here."

Kailani Cotton is a senior at **Orangewood Adventist Academy** and has been in Adventist schools all her life. "Orangewood has given me the opportunity to get involved in things like sports, music and leadership," Cotton said. "I've loved building the friendships which have helped me grow in Christ during my five years here. This school has become a home to me."

Students thrive when their home and school support systems are synchronized. Cotton's parents have worked hard to make it possible for her to stay in Adventist schools, even when it seemed that prayer and faith were the only things keeping her there. She credits her home environment, a low student-teacher ratio and uplifting staff with giving



Kelly Provonsha helps Gilbert Villegas during reading at Orangewood Academy.

her a solid preparation for her future. Teachers who provide a spiritually nurturing environment are also high on her appreciation list.

"Last year, I was baptized at a beach vespers, and I know that without the support of my school, family and Bible classes, that would never have happened," Cotton said.

Youth who are part of Adventist education are more likely to actively serve in their local church, as well. Alger Keough, associate pastor at Azure Hills church, has seen it happen there. "At Azure Hills, more than 20 percent of our church deacons are between the ages of 12 to 18," Keough said. "In my observation, once they have developed a pattern of service while young, they are more likely to remain active as adults. Adventist education is a great investment in the present, as well as the future, of the church."

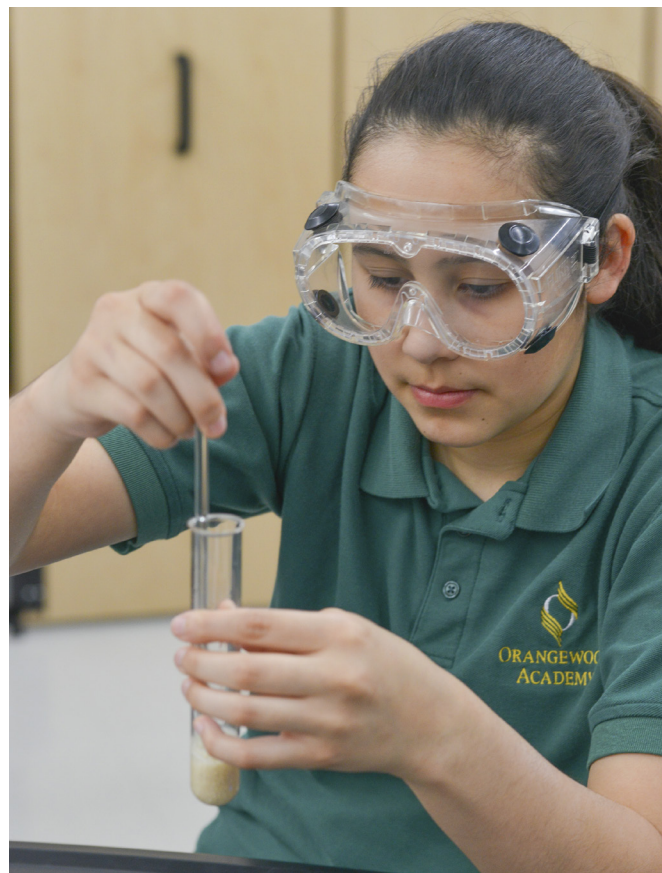
Sometimes, families who have been faithful supporters of Adventist Christian education suddenly experience challenges that test their faith. Jenny Smith* and her husband have two daughters in elementary school. Their older daughter started kindergarten in public school, but the environment and influences were disillusioning. When both girls began attending **Loma Linda Academy**, they settled in happily. Then, family tragedy struck. Smith's mother was diagnosed with cancer and had a tumor wrapped around her spine. She was facing paralysis. Suddenly, every aspect of life seemed fragile.

"Our finances were strapped, and sometimes friends would just show up with food so we wouldn't go hungry. We had no idea how we would survive," Smith said. She and her husband sat down and assessed their finances. Their mortgage and the girls' school tuition were almost equal, and they agreed that public school was the only feasible option for the next fall.

One day, Smith's mother decided to pray for a miracle. A strong believer in Adventist education, she felt that this prayer needed to be prayed down on her knees, asking God to pour out His blessings so that her granddaughters could stay in church school.

"I had to take a leave of absence at work to take care of my mother, which cut our income dramatically," Smith said. "One day I was sharing our situation with one of the pastors at our church and mentioned our dilemma about school."

The pastor shared their needs with others, and people helped figure out how to help the girls receive worthy student funds.



Daniela Reyna experiments during chemistry lab at Orangewood Academy.



Loma Linda Academy sophomores Alivia Lespinasse, Mycah Adu and Kayla Glass model their DNA projects in biology class.

"On the last possible day for financial clearance, my daughters were able to be assigned to a classroom and stay enrolled for the next year," Smith said. "And now, my mom's cancer is in remission, too!"

Stories like these are the inspiration for many parents' prayerful faith for their children's education. Offerings for Adventist education during April, and throughout the year, will allow many more families to experience their own miracles and answers to prayer.

**Name changed to protect the privacy of the family.*

Sarah McDugal

Carmichael Church Improves Lives in the Caribbean

When volunteers from the Carmichael church set out to work on various projects in the Dominican Republic, it didn't take long to witness the impact of their mission trip on the local community.

The congregation in Villa Mella, just north of the capital city of Santo Domingo, made known that it had waited 14 years for the new cinderblock church building that Carmichael was there to construct. Hundreds of Carmichael clinicians provided medical and dental care at clinics around the corner and across town. Patients were grateful for their care; some had never been to a doctor's appointment.



At the start of the building project, construction leader Luther Findley teaches fellow Carmichael church members the techniques to laying cinder block.



Hanna Olafsson takes a boy's temperature at one of the medical clinics staffed by Carmichael church volunteers.

Then there was a mother who took her children to Vacation Bible School and spoke passionately about what Carmichael was doing for her underserved neighborhood. "We have so many needs here," she said, "and we have seen God reflected through you. We've been able to see that God has not forgotten us."

Maranatha Volunteers International facilitated the family-friendly mission trip from Dec. 26 to Jan. 8. The church took 79 people connected to Carmichael — many of them children — to the Caribbean island with a growing Adventist presence.

Volunteering in this kind of capacity is not new to Carmichael, which has sent hundreds of missionaries to Peru, Mozambique and Nicaragua, and which feeds thousands of families in the Sacramento area with its dynamic community services programming.

While the mission trip left a lasting impression on people in the Dominican Republic, it also was life-changing for many of the volunteers, who ranged in age from 7 to 70-something.

"At first, I didn't want to do this, but I'm so glad I came," confessed 17-year-old Ashley Dordevic, standing on a scaffold in her yellow hard hat and work gloves covered in wet concrete. "I've learned more about God since I've been on this trip."

Two physicians, Ron Hart and Jed Tatsuyama, cared for physical and spiritual needs. "This is an opportunity to just allow God's love to touch people's lives," Hart said at one of the crowded clinics, which were held in public school classrooms. "I find it amazing to see how God prepared people's hearts for this — to allow us

PHOTOS BY EDWIN GARCIA



Carmichael youth and a local Dominican teenager prepare concrete by sifting and mixing cement and sand at the Villa Mella church construction site.



Sheri Fayard, center, and youth volunteers teach songs in English and Spanish to dozens of community children at Vacation Bible School.

to pray with them, and to allow them to accept Him as their Savior."

Although some in the Carmichael group sought medical attention themselves — stomach problems, a broken bone and even a detached retina — there was never a doubt that God was in control, which the group was reminded of during the twice-daily devotionals presented by Senior Pastor Keith Jacobson.

"We took on a big project and accomplished more than was expected," said Associate Pastor Benji Ferguson, who organized the trip. "Our involvement in this mission project will have a Kingdom impact."

For videos of the mission trip, visit www.carmsda.org/adult-ministries/mission-trip.

Edwin Garcia

Ignite 2

CONNECTING WITH RELEVANCE

JUNE 28-JULY 1, 2017



Join us for this special four-day camp meeting! This event, sponsored by the Northern California Conference African American Ministries Department, will be held on the beautiful grounds of Pacific Union College, and will provide attendees with inspiration, fellowship and much more! **All are welcome!**

FEATURING

Debleaire K. Snell - Senior Pastor of the First church in Huntsville, Alabama

Chanda Nunes - Associate Pastor of the Sacramento Capitol City church

The youth ministry team of **Grace Tour**, including **Jeremy Anderson**



AND MUCH MORE!

WWW.NCCSDA.COM/IGNITE2

Redwood Camp Meeting

Featured speaker

TY GIBSON

CO-DIRECTOR / SPEAKER,
LIGHT BEARERS

At the age of eighteen, Ty Gibson encountered the truth of God's existence for the first time. After having been raised with a purely secular worldview and having witnessed evil and suffering firsthand, Ty was completely opposed to the idea of a Supreme Being. "If God exists," he reasoned, "would he have to be cruel to have made a world like ours?" Ty's conversion as a teenager was founded on the answer to that question. The powerful reality of God's love opened Ty's mind to a whole new line of thought. Since then he has given his life to the joyous task of sharing God's good character in public seminars, as well as through print and video media.



CHRIST'S METHOD

ALONE

Serving Others

JULY 20-29, 2017

2437 Dyerville Loop Road, Redcrest, California 95569 (707) 946-2452
redwood@nccsda.com www.nccsda.com/redwoodcamp
www.facebook.com/redwoodcamp

FAA Students Present “Hosea: From Broken to Brand New”

In February, Fresno Adventist Academy held its third annual revival series. “Hosea: From Broken to Brand New” was an entirely student-led event to promote dedication and reconnection with God and His guiding principles of love and forgiveness. This week-long experience was centered on God’s redeeming love displayed through the stories of Hosea and Gomer. Jeff Lauritzen, Bible instructor, worked with students to select the topic and theme. “They were completely captivated with the thought that Hosea would love his wayward wife — no matter what,” explained Lauritzen. “They quickly correlated it as a metaphor for God and His relationship with us.”

The students broke the theme into six presentations and wrote their own material. “One of the greatest results of the revival is that kids who are shy become outgoing,” recalled Lauritzen. “Those who have never imagined themselves up front become comfortable in that setting.”

Preparing to preach was only part of it. Cathie Jones, English and drama instructor, worked with students to write, cast and perform themed skits for the revival series. “Although it was challenging with only three students [in her drama class] this year, they worked well together,” said Jones. Elijah Freebird, Christiana Kerbs and Jessica MacLafferty each wrote one skit and were the principle actors in

PHOTOS BY TAYLOR CANTRELL



Jessica MacLafferty's skit focused on revealing those in need.

the performances. Others were cast, including juniors and seniors, several from the middle school choir, and even three kindergarteners performed as Hosea and Gomer's children. With the assistance of Marla Rasmussen, interim principal and kindergarten teacher, the events for the week came together with Bible costumes while Jones created props, directed, and recruited actors.

The spirit of this year's revival series had a huge impact on the school community. On Wednesday, four students offered their lives to Jesus Christ. Ezequiel Nichols, pastor of the Selma and Sanger Bilingual church district, baptized them in front of their peers and mentors. Additionally, on Sabbath morning, Julie Dickerson, registrar and vice principal of education, stood with her husband, Richard, and their families as

they dedicated their newborn son, Richard Lee Dickerson IV, to the Lord.

The series concluded with ninth-grader Noah Rinker's sermon on Sabbath morning. Rinker, along with preaching team members Nicole Tiburcio and Sydney Lapham, emphasized marriage and the marriage between God and his people. They thought it would be interesting for kids to talk about marriage and that it would be a really good topic to close the week. “Giving a sermon was quite a fun experience,” Rinker admits. “I am really glad we got the opportunity to do it.”

While these are the tangible successes of the revival series, there is no telling how much the communal celebration positively impacted everyone involved in the production. “It was most exciting to see all the enthusiasm from so many students wanting to take part in the revival series,” reflects Rasmussen, “which contributed to changing power of the Holy Spirit felt by all attending!” This created an environment that has continued to evolve and inspire students and staff to persist in their study of Scripture — and in their love for God.



The FAA student praise team led song service during the Hosea revival.

James Montague

FREE

MEDICAL/DENTAL
CLINIC

SOQUEL
CONFERENCE CENTER
JUNE 10-11, 2017
8 A.M. - 4 P.M.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Dentists
Dental Hygienists
Dental Assistants
General Physicians
Optometrists
Registration
Hospitality
Security
Communication
and many more!



Join the Central California Conference in hosting a large community clinic for Santa Cruz County on the Soquel Camp Meeting grounds.

The more volunteers we have, the more patients we can serve with free medical and dental care!

Register and find out more at LifeHopeCentersCentral.com

PUC Students Help Lake County with Point-In-Time Homeless Count

Thirteen students from Pacific Union College assisted Lake County Continuum of Care (CoC) officials with a Point-In-Time (PIT) count of the county's homeless population Jan. 24. These counts, required by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, provide an overview of the homelessness in the region and the information necessary for the county to be eligible for federal funding for programs and housing for the homeless. Students from the Statistical Methods and Human Behavior and the Social Environment classes participated in the event.

More than 100 volunteers helped with the PIT count. PUC students worked in two areas, Middletown and Clearlake, with some students working with community members to visit known homeless encampments while others were stationed at a church or large tent to help guide the homeless through a 28-question survey. Food, water, flu shots, HIV/Hepatitis C testing, and dog food and other supplies were available to survey participants. PUC's Clearlake Homeless Ministries provided hygiene items such as deodorant, laundry detergent, and feminine hygiene products to be distributed to help incentivize participation in the survey.

"Surveying people experiencing homelessness benefits many organizations in Lake County financially in the long term, and we hope that analyzing the information collected will give Lake County's leaders insight into the people living without shelter in their county. The provision of services such as HIV/AIDS testing, flu vaccines, hot food, and pet services are beneficial to the population in the short term, and were well received by the many people with whom we interacted," said psychology instructor Christy Mantz, who also serves as the service-learning coordinator at PUC.

PIT Count Coordinator Marylin Wakefield, who also serves as grants coordinator at St. Helena Hospital Clear Lake, expressed her appreciation to the volunteers from PUC for

their help. "The Pacific Union College students and professors were great collaborators," said Wakefield. "The students were eager to be involved and learn more about the survey process and about homelessness in a neighboring county. They also applied what they're learning through serving at the survey site and compiling and analyzing the data we gathered together."

Junior social work major Sabrina Solorzano participated in the count, and she wasn't quite sure what to expect. Though she had volunteered with homeless outreach events in the past, it was her first time helping with a PIT count. One interview in particular stuck out to her — a woman who had lost her home in one

of the fires that ravaged the area in the last two years. "I felt compassion for her, because I know this is not the way we should live," Sabrina said. "It pains me to realize how privileged I am, even as a minority. I feel as though I have a lot more to offer than what I've accomplished so far. I believe it's my mission as someone who loves Christ to share love with others rather than containing it within."

With help from students in the Statistical Methods class taught by professor Lloyd Best, data from the PIT surveys will be analyzed to provide Lake County with information about the homeless population within their community.

Larissa Church



PUC students Ariel Barnes, left, and Annette Cho assist with the PIT count survey.

Adventist Health News Notes

Briggs Named President and CEO of San Joaquin Community Hospital

Sharlet Briggs has been named president and CEO of San Joaquin Community Hospital in Bakersfield, Calif., according to Beth Zachary, president and CEO of the Southern California Region of Adventist Health. Briggs served in this role on an interim basis for several months, while also maintaining her duties as SJCH's chief operating officer.

"Sharlet demonstrates the ability to meaningfully engage with our staff, physicians and community, foster a culture of inclusive decision making, and cast a strategic vision that will propel us to a bright future, says Zachary. "I have no doubt that Sharlet is the right person to carry out this sacred work."

Briggs has served with Adventist Health in various roles for over 25 years, including stints at St. Helena Hospital, Ukiah Valley Medical Center and at the system headquarters in Roseville, Calif. Throughout her career, she has overseen multiple clinical and non-clinical areas, including health information management, nursing, business development and quality improvement. After joining SJCH in 2012 as vice president of organizational

excellence, she was quickly promoted to senior vice president, and again to chief operating officer in 2015.

Knittel Named President and CEO of Feather River Hospital

Monty Knittel has been named president and CEO of Feather River Hospital in Paradise, Calif., according to Jeff Eller, president and CEO of the Northern California Region of Adventist Health. Knittel has worked nearly 30 years at Adventist Health.

"I am grateful that we've found someone with Monty's depth of experience, leadership and track record of cultivating strong community relations. He is well known for building engagement with important stakeholders and civic leaders," says Eller. "I also would like to thank Rick Rawson for his interim role and service to the hospital and Paradise community for the past few months."

Knittel most recently has served as the president and CEO of Walla Walla General Hospital in Walla Walla, Wash. While there he initiated and completed construction of a \$16 million, 18,000 square-foot remodel of the hospital that included a new emergency

department, centralized patient admitting and front entrance.

Wells Named President and CEO of Howard Memorial Hospital

Jason Wells has been named president and CEO of Howard Memorial Hospital in Willits, Calif., according to Jeff Eller, president and CEO of the Northern California Region of Adventist Health. Wells has worked for 11 years with Adventist Health System, a sister organization to Adventist Health.

"He is well known for driving change and has a passion for sustaining a culture of excellence," says Eller.

Wells served as chief operating officer of the Physician Enterprise and vice president of Experience at Park Ridge Health, a 103-bed hospital near Asheville, N.C.

Wells earned a bachelor's degree from Walla Walla University and a Master of Business Administration from Benedictine University. Wells replaces Kevin Erich who has been serving as interim president and CEO of Howard Memorial Hospital since Rick Bockmann's departure in November 2016.

Jenni Glass



Sharlet Briggs



Monty Knittel



Jason Wells

Arizona-Based Good News TV Begins Airing in Tucson

Good News TV continues to expand its reach as it approaches its ninth year of broadcasting Christ-centered, Adventist programming on English (GNTV) and Spanish (GNTV Latino) channels. In 2009, this media ministry of the Arizona Conference began broadcasting in Phoenix. During 2014, GNTV started stations in four new Arizona communities, including Prescott, Payson, Flagstaff and Yuma.

On March 1, GNTV began airing in Tucson, Arizona's second largest metropolitan area with a population of approximately one million. With this latest addition, GNTV covers about 90 percent of the population of Arizona with inspirational programming, 24 hours a day.

The GNTV team had Tucson in their sights and prayers for several years. "I felt a sense of urgency that my community needed the soul-saving, life-changing message of Jesus that GNTV broadcasts into homes and hearts," said lay member Norma Limp. She visited local churches, garnering prayers and support,

sharing testimonies of the GNTV viewers around Arizona who have become active Seventh-day Adventists. Recently, all of the pieces of the puzzle came together.

Luke Skelton, GNTV general manager, contacted several Tucson-area TV stations, but the lease prices seemed out of reach. Even so, in January, the GNTV team took equipment to Tucson to check one station's signal strengths around the city. They prayed, "Lord, please make it clear whether the channels we are considering leasing are the right ones, or if we should pursue another station."

The answer was clear. That station registered 100 percent signal strength, while others did not even come in at all. Plus, there were no other Christian channels on over-the-air digital TV in Tucson.

GNTV applied for evangelism funding from the Arizona Conference to start the ministry in Tucson. As Skelton began negotiations for the lease price, the Tucson Spanish churches began raising the large monthly sum needed to lease

a Spanish channel. They raised exactly enough. Support from the English churches increased, as well.

The Arizona Conference moved forward in faith and signed the contract to start broadcasting. The final contract provided both Spanish and English channels for a little over the original quote for just one channel.

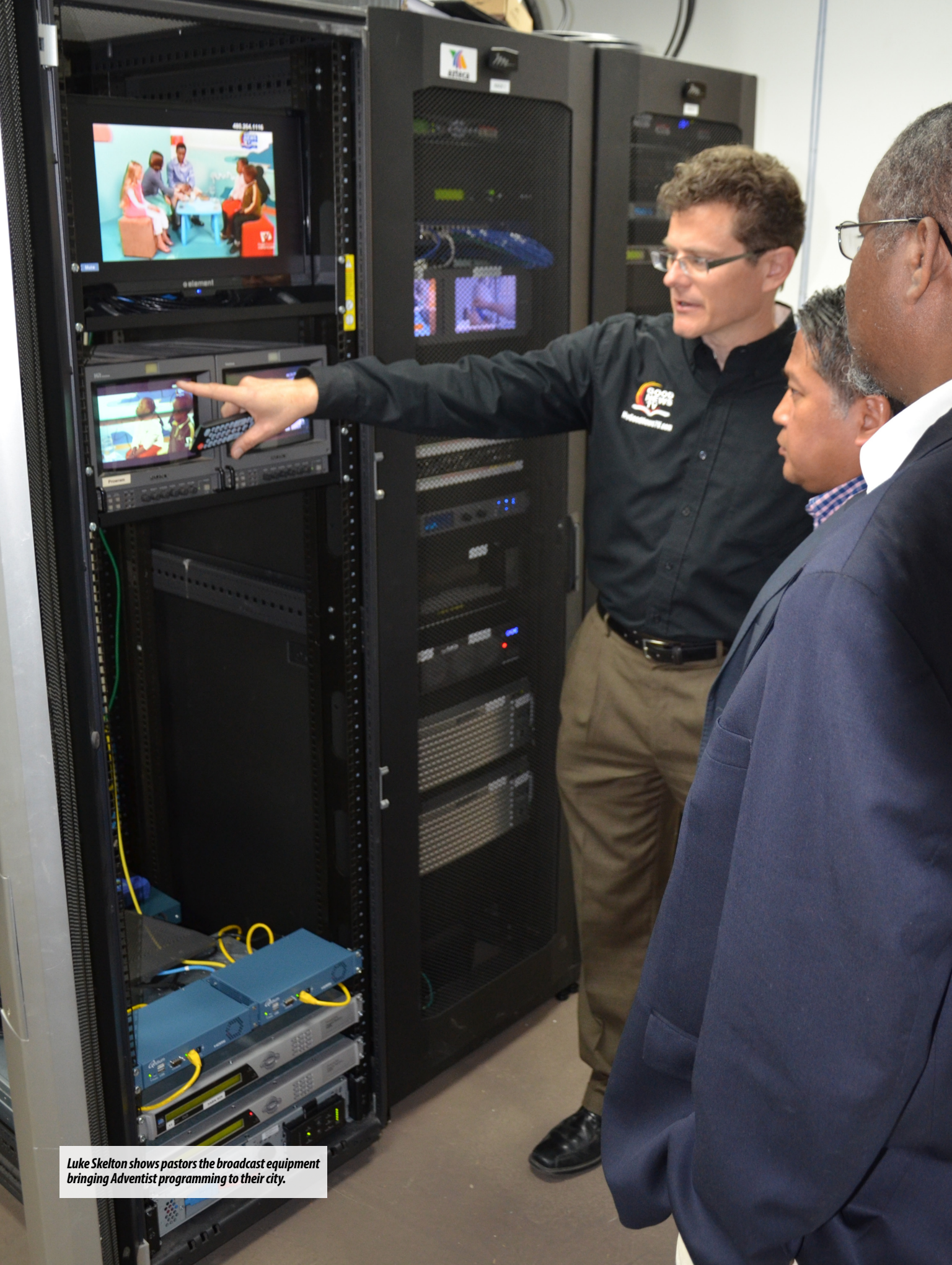
Shortly after broadcasting began, GNTV started receiving calls from new Tucson viewers who said they had been blessed by the programming. Another viewer called to find a Tucson-area church to attend, and still another came to an evangelistic series promoted on the channel. Skelton and his team are thankful for the many prayers and faithful support for GNTV and for its brand-new viewers as they make decisions for Jesus.

For more information about partnering with GNTV and expanding its reach, call 480-264-1116 or visit www.MyGoodNewsTV.com.

Phil Draper



Tucson-area pastors, along with Norma Limp (Tucson coordinator), Luke Skelton (GNTV general manager), and the staff of Azteca Tucson celebrate the launch of the new channels.



Luke Skelton shows pastors the broadcast equipment bringing Adventist programming to their city.

Loma Linda University Children's Hospital Raises \$1.2 Million for Area Community Care

More than 1,000 attendees of the Loma Linda University Children's Hospital Foundation 24th annual gala helped raise over \$1.2 million for a new hospital tower that will serve Southern California children.

Attendees at the Storybook Foundation Gala heard how the hospital cares for children facing extreme health challenges, including Leo Juarez, who was a high school junior when he first noticed tingling in his fingers and toes. Within weeks his symptoms worsened and it became difficult for him to move.

At Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, physicians discovered that Juarez had Lupus Nephritis, an autoimmune disorder. A second diagnosis, Guillain-Barré syndrome, was devastating. Leo's immune system was

attacking the myelin coating his nerves, leading to paralysis.

When Leo could no longer breathe on his own, doctors performed a tracheotomy. "I said, 'Leo, you've got to fight!'" recalls his mom, Lorena. "And he did."

At Children's Hospital, doctors from pediatric critical care, neurosurgery, and physical medicine and rehabilitation worked tirelessly to provide his care.

While Leo could only move his neck and shoulders, every day brought small improvements. "When he moved his hands a little, we never dared hope," his mother said.

Family and friends gathered in the hospital to celebrate Leo's 17th birthday, and his mom

typed in his answers for homework when he couldn't move his arms.

Gary Lucas, a speech pathologist, Dale Friesen from physical therapy, and Jenny Liu and Carrie Jensen, occupational therapists, celebrated Leo's gradual healing, including his first words and steps.

Today Leo is back in school and has rejoined the Madrigals, an elite choir. "I feel more alive than before this happened," he says. "I appreciate the beauty in every moment, not just the happy ones. I'm more positive. I've learned to appreciate the 'now.'"

See a video of Leo's story: bit.ly/LeoLLUCH.

Briana Pastorino and Nancy Yuen

ERIK EDSTROM



After Leo Juarez and his family shared their story at the 24th Annual Foundation Storybook Gala he received a surprise — warm greetings from many of the Loma Linda University Children's Hospital doctors and staff who had cared for him. The gala, held in the Riverside Convention Center on Feb. 16, raised \$1,208,972.

Beyond Tolerance:

Loma Linda Establishes Center for Understanding World Religions

The William Johnsson Center for Understanding World Religions was established at Loma Linda University Health earlier this year to promote inter-faith dialogue and cooperation.

Named after the interfaith scholar and luminary of Seventh-day Adventist publishing, William Johnsson, Ph.D., the center will host events to encourage inter-religious understanding and peacemaking. Johnsson has devoted most of his life to ministry, serving as a missionary, seminary professor, editor of the *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World* and now in interfaith relations.

"The better we understand each person's faith, the better we can accomplish our mission of continuing the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ," said Jon Paulien, Ph.D., director

of the center and dean, Loma Linda University School of Religion.

The center's inaugural program, held Jan. 28, illuminated the experience of Muslim students and faculty at Loma Linda. It also featured a special address titled "Why I Am a Muslim" by Islamic scholar Jihad Turk, M.A. Future programs will explore other religions.

Johnsson, the center's namesake, said, "Here at Loma Linda, we believe that all people come from the Creator. We are all bound to one another in a common origin in God, our Creator. We are brothers and sisters."

School of Medicine professor Eba Hathout, M.D., gave this call to her fellow Muslims: "In these challenging times, which have wrenched our hearts with monumental attacks on our civil core and human dignity, as we watch the

abuse of Islam and other Abrahamic religions in violation of God's commandments, as we witness the deepening fractures of hatred within our country, let us learn from the role model set by Adventists — a message of inclusion, healing, wholeness and service to all mankind."

Adventist ethicist and Loma Linda religion professor Gerald Winslow, Ph.D., called on Adventists to make clear that they do not tolerate religious bigotry.

Following the Dec. 2, 2015, terrorist shooting in San Bernardino, Calif., by Islamic extremists, LLU Muslim student Sara Haddad Tabrizi felt embarrassed to come to class, she recounted. She was met with kind smiles. "I'm so thankful and glad," she said.

Heather Reifsnnyder



Sara Haddad Tabrizi, second from left, shares her experience as a Muslim student at Loma Linda University. Joining her in the panel discussion are, at left, radiology resident Khwaja Arsalan Ahmed, M.D., and, to the right, Eba Hathout, M.D., professor, School of Medicine, and Gerald Winslow, Ph.D., director, LLU Center for Christian Bioethics.

Conflict Resolution Center Answers Peace Call, Thanks NAD Partners

On Feb. 11, the joy of learning how to let God create peace persuaded a record number of members of the Victorville church to brave one of the wettest Sabbaths of the season in order to become peacemakers, an effort that aligns with an ongoing General Conference peace directive issued on April 18, 2002.

The denomination's first Center for Conflict Resolution, housed at La Sierra University, conducted the training. The workshop included the church service and afternoon practice sessions led by three center trainers. "In addition to being fun, the concluding exercise, showing

how we are all connected and how any disconnection between each other affects our witness as a whole, was particularly meaningful," said Victorville pastor Raewyn Orlich, who organized the presentations. "Without healthy ways of resolving conflict, we get stuck in destructive patterns of relating to one another. If we practice positive ways of engaging in conflict, we have something to offer our struggling communities."

The Victorville church is among more than 130 North American Division churches, academies, universities and colleges, conferences, and camps, as well as public schools, civic groups and nonprofits that have welcomed various types of conflict resolution training and education from the Center since its inception in 2010. Programs include the internationally-acclaimed Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, or OBPP, operated through the Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life at Clemson University.

Over the past six years, the center's activities included presentations, training and funding of the OBPP anti-bullying program implementation and materials for 81 schools in 17 regional Adventist conferences across seven union conferences; certification of conference personnel as OBPP trainers; and conflict resolution training for nearly 1,000 individuals, including SDA camp personnel, Pathfinder leaders and congregational leadership. "Our conference has been working with the center for several years, and our schools have committed to implementing a culture of kindness using the OBPP program," said Coreen Hicks, associate superintendent of education in the Northern California Conference. She completed training in January and is now an OBPP anti-bullying program trainer.



Books some schools use to teach students as part of the anti-bullying program provided through La Sierra University's Center for Conflict Resolution.



Education personnel of the Northern California Conference participated in an Olweus Bullying Prevention Program training session in December.

Following a six-year start-up period of raising awareness, the center is expanding its efforts and offering more training to specific groups, such as pastors, congregations, elders, deacons, women's fellowships, and Pathfinder/Adventurer leaders, according to Richard Pershing and Ed Motschieder, the center's director and associate director, respectively. One example is the center's work with Jim Redfield, a retired pastor in Northern California Conference who conducted the first training in October 2016 on adult bullying prevention at the Palo Cedro church. "Left unchecked, the combination of unresolved conflict and bullying behavior can threaten the very life of a church," said Redfield.

The center helps Adventist institutions fulfill the General Conference Executive Committee's Seventh-day Adventist Call for Peace issued in the wake of 9/11. The directive called on



Rochelle Webster, family ministries pastor for the Redlands church, speaks during a conflict resolution seminar on Feb. 11 at the Victorville church.

Adventist schools to teach, and all Adventist pastors to preach, conflict resolution worldwide. The full text of the Call for Peace is available on the NAD website.

Robert E. Coy, recently retired vice chairman and president of the lay-Adventist foundation, Versacare, Inc., suggested that Versacare's focus in supporting the center was to insure the youth of the church receive every opportunity to become the leaders of the future. "Life at best for many of our young people is troubled with conflict and bullying, and we realized the importance of providing training in loving and caring for each other in our schools and churches. This includes role model training for adults in being able to address their own disagreements or differences with similar approaches. We believe the center has made impressive progress in assisting individuals, schools and churches across the NAD on the pathway for a happier life journey."

Versacare began developing the center with La Sierra's Zapara School of Business in 2008, first testing conflict resolution training, then adding the OBPP anti-bullying program in 2012. The center recently published a message of thanks to Versacare and the NAD schools, churches and other organizations who have collaborated with it in forwarding the Call for Peace. "We are thrilled to have more and more organizations inviting us to assist them in making their own Adventist contribution to the Call for Peace," said Pershing.

The center's full Report of Thanks can be accessed at this link: lasierra.edu/conflict-resolution/adventist-peacemaking.

Darla Martin Tucker



Richard Pershing, director of La Sierra University's Center for Conflict Resolution assists with a training session of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program for the Northern California Conference.

CCR Partners

Northern California Conference

- Adventist Christian School of Red Bluff
- Adventist Christian School of Yuba City
- Bayside SDA Christian School
- Chico Oaks Adventist School
- Echo Ridge Christian School
- Lodi SDA Elementary School
- Manteca Adventist Christian School
- Paradise Adventist Academy
- Pine Hills Adventist Academy
- Redwood Adventist Academy
- Rio Lindo Adventist Academy
- Ukiah Junior Academy
- Westlake SDA School
- Leoni Meadows Adventist Camp
- Palo Cedro Adventist Church
- Northern California Conference Camp Meeting

Central California Conference

- Miramonte SDA Christian School
- Sierra View Junior Academy
- Southern California Conference
- Glendale Adventist Academy
- West Covina Hills Adventist School
- Vallejo Drive Church

Southeastern California Conference

- La Sierra Academy
- Loma Linda Academy
- Orangewood Academy
- Redlands Academy
- San Diego Academy
- Corona Church
- La Sierra University Church
- Victorville Church
- SECC teacher meetings

Arizona Conference

- Thunderbird Academy

Arizona Conference Sponsors 'Who Is My Neighbor?' Religious Liberty Weekend

Camelback church in Phoenix was filled March 4 with members and visitors attending the first day of a Public Affairs and Religious Liberty weekend event, "Who Is My Neighbor?" sponsored by the Arizona Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department.

PHOTOS BY ALICIA ADAMS



Alan Reinach, director of the Church State Council, asks panelists a question.

Sabbath school and

church speakers focused on religious liberty topics, and after a potluck lunch, attendees stayed for a panel discussion featuring 10 speakers of different faiths (Christian, Muslim, Sikh and Mormon), ages, genders, ethnicities and cultural viewpoints. Panelists discussed current challenges they face, as well as ways different faith groups can work together for the common good, in the discussion themed "Does Public Affairs, a.k.a. 'Social Justice,' and Religious Liberty Still Have a Place in the Community?"

According to Brad Abramson, senior counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom, the United States founding fathers believed that religious beliefs are about a personal relationship with God. "Religious liberty is the idea that there is an authority higher than the state" and is the basis for a limited government, said Abramson.

Religious liberty is about much more than lobbying for or against bills in Congress and fighting against Sabbath discrimination in the workplace. It's about social justice and engaging with local communities and working alongside other faith groups to protect freedom of religion in its various forms. "We have to start showing up for one another," said Alan Reinach, Esq., director for the Pacific Union Church State Council, which supported the weekend event.

Hate crimes are on the rise in America and around the world, and anti-Muslim hate crimes have more than doubled in the U.S. The panel discussed ways to combat the fear that leads to hate. "We have to humanize the victims of these hate crimes," said Imraan Siddiqui, executive director for the Council on American-Islamic Relations for Arizona. "We need to learn the stories of people in our communities who are affected by religious and ethnic profiling."

Siddiqui also explained that the threshold for a crime to be classified as a "hate crime" is very high, which means there are many race- and religion-motivated crimes that do not receive that official classification. In addition, subtle hostilities are increasing, such as cities blocking the construction of mosques and prisons refusing to provide pork-free meals for inmates of Muslim, Jewish, Adventist and other faith groups with dietary restrictions.

"The number one place we get our ideologies and prejudices is from our families," said Fabian Carballo, president of North American Religious Liberty Association – West. "We need to break out of our tribe and form relationships with people who are completely different from us."

Manchawal Sachdev, M.D., a representative of the Sikh Coalition, told the group about a frustrating work experience he'd endured because of his religious beliefs. The hospital that hired him requires a hair follicle drug screening from all staff. Because Sikhs never cut their hair and allow it to grow naturally as a sign of respect for the perfection of God's creation, cutting a piece for the drug test was not an option for him. Instead, he was required to do a fingernail test, which is less common and slower. He lost time at work (and pay) waiting on the results. "When we're in positions to make policies and laws, we have to remember that this country does not have a singular expression of faith," said Sachdev. "We have a wide variety of faith traditions to accommodate."



Attendees at the "Educate – Empower – Engage" training hear practical advice on how to build relationships with public officials and with other faith groups.

The panelists also tackled immigration issues. "I don't think the vast majority of Americans understand how the U.S. immigration system actually works," said James Standish, former executive director for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom. Standish told



Dr. Kingsley Palmer, assistant to the president for Regional Ministries in the Arizona Conference and organizer of the weekend event, welcomes guests to the Camelback church March 4.

the story of his own immigration to the U.S. from Australia; he and his wife, both with graduate degrees and job offers in the U.S., spent "thousands of dollars and seven years" just to get green cards. Citizenship took several more years. Contrary to what some believe, immigration in the U.S. is not a loosely-regulated, open-door process with a big welcome mat.

On Sunday, March 5, the program moved to the Arizona Conference office for "Educate – Empower – Engage," a hands-on workshop where attendees heard a variety of speakers explain ways Adventist churches and members can engage in social justice reform and religious liberty activism through relationship building.

The Bible commands Christians to make a difference in the world, explained Edward Woods III, director for Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the Lake Region Conference. Woods quoted Isaiah 1:17: "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow."

"Proverbs 18:24 and Micah 6:8 are the basis for religious liberty ministry," said Woods. "John 16:8-9 tells us that it's not our job to expose the sins of the world; our job is to reflect the evidence for a living Christ. What a powerful message our church would have if we were known for looking out more for the interest of others than for ourselves. Instead, we're so busy proselytizing our doctrines that people don't know if we even care about them."

"Religious liberty ministry presents lots of opportunities to share who you are as a Seventh-day Adventist," said Standish. "When that opportunity comes, don't be afraid to stand up and give an answer. Invite politicians, judges, etc., to speak in your schools and churches. Don't be intimidated. The process is not that complex."

Woods believes political parties are dangerous for believers. "I believe all Adventists should be Independents so that we can focus on the issues rather than the personalities," he said.

"Adventists have a very proud history of speaking up in the public square," said Standish. "When we look at injustices in history, such as the abolitionist movement, Nazi occupation, etc., we say, 'Well, if I'd been there, I would've done something to help,'" said Standish. "The question is, when it is you, what are you going to do? This is our time."

"The Church State Council hopes to sponsor and support other Know Your Neighbor events around the union to help our members build relationships with other religious groups we know little about," said Reinach.

For more information, contact Natalie Eva at 916-446-2552 or neva@churchstate.org.

Alicia J. Adams



Call TO Listen

Access our most popular languages by phone.



US/Canada

Amharic . . . (712) 432-9970

Arabic (712) 432-9979

Hindi (712) 432-9976

French (712) 432-9978

Korean (712) 432-9974

Mandarin . . . (605) 475-1798

Maasai (712) 432-9971

Punjabi (712) 432-7731

Spanish (712) 432-9977

Swahili (712) 432-9972

Tagalog (712) 432-9975

Vietnamese . (712) 432-9973

See more countries & numbers at
awr.org/call-to-listen

Listen online to 100+ languages at
awr.org/listen

800-337-4297 [f awrweb](https://www.facebook.com/awrweb) [@awrweb](https://twitter.com/awrweb)

CALENDARS

Central California

PATHFINDER BIKE-A-THON (April 7-9) Castle Air Force Base. To make plans for your club to attend contact pathfinders@cccsda.org or call 559-347-3174. Sponsor a Pathfinder today.

SINGLES RETREAT (April 28-30) CCC campus. Info: singles@cccsda.org or 903-594-8868.

FEJA HISPANIC YOUTH CAMP (April 28-30) Info: 559-347-3174.

Northern California

LEADING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO HEAVEN (April 1) 3 p.m. Eureka church, 4251 F. Street, Eureka. Family, children's ministry, Sabbath school and VBS training. Info: www.nccsda.com/LeadingChildrentoHeaven.

BIKE-A-THON (April 2) Metro Air Park, Sacramento. Info: NCC Youth Department, 925-603-5080.

VALLEY ASAM SINGLES (April 9) Potluck and Miniature Golf. 11 a.m. Orangevale church, 5810 Pecan Ave., Orangevale. For potluck, bring your favorite salad or finger food. Main dish and drinks will be provided. Afterward, mini golf at Scandia Fun Center, 5070 Hillsdale Blvd., Sacramento. Price: \$8.50. Info: Glenn, 916-365-7221.

CHURCH TREASURER TRAINING (April 9) 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. NCC Office, 401 Taylor Blvd., Pleasant Hill. Lunch provided. Info: NCC Treasurer's Office, 888-434-4622, ext. 209.

DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING (April 22-23) Carmichael church, 4600 Winding Way, Sacramento. Disaster Assessment: Sabbath, 2-6 p.m. Shelter Operations: Sunday, 9 a.m.-noon. Speaker: W. Derrick Lea, NAD ACS Disaster Response director. Attendees receive ACS and American Red Cross certificates of attendance. Info: 925-603-5072, Gordon.Botting@nccsda.com.

ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES RETREAT (April 23-26) Leoni Meadows. Community Crisis Care. Featured speakers: Carolyn Oliver, W. Derrick Lea. Devotionals: Kelly Mowrer. Info: 925-603-5072, Gordon.Botting@nccsda.com.

PATHFINDER ROCK CLIMBING (April 20-23, 27-30) Yosemite. Info: NCC Youth Department, 925-603-5080.

RETIRO DE HOMBRES (May 12-14) Leoni Meadows. Hispanic Men's Retreat. Info: NCC Hispanic Ministries Department, 925-603-5092.

*"Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."
— Exodus 20:8*

SUNSETS

| | 4/7 | 4/14 | 4/21 | 4/28 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|
| Alturas | 7:35 | 7:42 | 7:50 | 7:58 |
| Angwin | 7:40 | 7:46 | 7:53 | 8:00 |
| Calexico | 7:07 | 7:12 | 7:17 | 7:22 |
| Chico | 7:38 | 7:45 | 7:52 | 7:59 |
| Eureka | 7:49 | 7:56 | 8:03 | 8:11 |
| Fresno | 7:27 | 7:33 | 7:39 | 7:46 |
| Hilo | 6:37 | 6:39 | 6:41 | 6:43 |
| Honolulu | 6:48 | 6:50 | 6:53 | 6:56 |
| Las Vegas | 7:08 | 7:14 | 7:20 | 7:26 |
| Lodi | 7:35 | 7:41 | 7:48 | 7:54 |
| Loma Linda | 7:15 | 7:20 | 7:26 | 7:31 |
| Los Angeles | 7:19 | 7:25 | 7:30 | 7:36 |
| Moab | 7:47 | 7:54 | 8:00 | 8:07 |
| Oakland | 7:38 | 7:44 | 7:51 | 7:57 |
| Phoenix | 6:53 | 6:59 | 7:04 | 7:09 |
| Reno | 7:30 | 7:37 | 7:44 | 7:51 |
| Riverside | 7:15 | 7:21 | 7:26 | 7:32 |
| Sacramento | 7:36 | 7:42 | 7:49 | 7:56 |
| Salt Lake City | 7:59 | 8:07 | 8:14 | 8:21 |
| San Diego | 7:13 | 7:18 | 7:23 | 7:28 |
| San Francisco | 7:39 | 7:45 | 7:52 | 7:58 |
| San Jose | 7:36 | 7:42 | 7:49 | 7:55 |
| Tucson | 6:48 | 6:53 | 6:58 | 7:03 |

Pacific Union College

SPRING QUARTER BEGINS (April 3) Info: www.puc.edu/admissions.

COLLEGE DAYS (April 9-11) Prospective students are invited to experience life at PUC. Come enjoy springtime in the Napa Valley. Registration required. Info: 707-965-6336 or www.puc.edu/admissions.

NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION (April 10) New students can register for Fall 2017 beginning April 10. Students should contact their enrollment counselors. Registration for continuing students opens April 24. General Info: 707-965-6336, enroll@puc.edu, or www.puc.edu/admissions.

STUDENT WEEK OF PRAYER (April 10-15) PUC church. Student speakers share personal testimonies throughout the week. Info: 707-965-7190.

STUDENT ART EXHIBITION (April 20) Opening Reception, 7 p.m., Rasmussen Art Gallery. This exhibit features new work from students in PUC's visual arts program, and will run through May 13. Info: 707-965-7362.

HOMECOMING WEEKEND (April 21-23) PUC alumni are invited to a special weekend, beginning with PUC Talks on Friday afternoon. Sabbath sermon: Louis Venden. Honored classes:

1940s, '57, '67, '77, '87, '92, '97, and '07. Info: 707-965-7500, puc.edu/alumni.

COLLEGE EARLY: SUMMER IN RESIDENCE (June 26-July 21) High school juniors and seniors are invited to experience PUC's rigorous academic environment while earning college credit in popular general education courses. Info: academicadministration@puc.edu or 707-965-7103.

PUC NOW (Online) Stay connected with Pacific Union College by signing up for our email newsletter. Info: www.puc.edu/puc-now.

PACIFICQUEST 2017 APPLICATION DEADLINE (May 19) Do you know a junior high student who loves to learn? Pacific Union College's week-long summer camp for top students is a great way to have fun and earn college credit! This year, students will be introduced to the world of anatomy. Learn more about this year's camp, running July 9-14, at puc.edu/pacificquest. Application deadline is Friday, May 19.

Southeastern California

13TH ANNUAL JUNIOR HIGH BAND FESTIVAL (April 5) 7 p.m., Loma Linda Junior High gymnasium, 10656 Anderson St., Loma Linda. Join us in celebrating with more than seven

schools in the festival of bands. Free. Info: Teri Vasquez, 951-509-2313.

ENDANGERED WILDLIFE ANIMAL PROGRAM (April 8) 5 p.m., Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus St., Loma Linda. Come learn about endangered animals! All are welcome. Info: Shawna Campbell, 909-558-4570.

PARENTING & CHURCH LEADER'S WORKSHOP (April 22) 3-7 p.m.; (April 23) 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus St., Loma Linda. This event is for pastors and family & children's leaders, led by Michelle Anthony, author and presenter with over 30 years of church ministry and leadership experience in children's and family ministries. Info: Manny Vitug, mvitug@seccsda.org.

LA SIERRA ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND (April 28, 29) LSA campus, 4900 Golden Ave., Riverside. Get ready for a meaningful and memorable weekend! All are welcome. Info: 951-351-1445 ext. 244, Judith Nelson, JNelson@lsak12.com.

LA SIERRA ACADEMY LADIES' TEA (April 30) Join other guests for a day of fun and tea! Register: 951-351-1445, ext. 213 or 214.

Southern California

WHEN TECHNOLOGY GOES TO CHURCH (April 2) 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Presentations: SLACK software, Live Streaming, Robots, Virtual Reality; Managing emailing lists, Facebook, Twitter; Making videos/films, 3-D printing. Glendale Adventist Academy, 700 Kimlin Dr., Glendale 91206. SCC Communication, sponsor. Registration: bit.ly/SCCte4217 by 3/29; Info: bcooney@seccsda.org; larmstrong@seccsda.org.

AUDIO/VIDEO PODCASTING WORKSHOP (April 20) 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Daryl Gungadoo, Adventist World Radio broadcast engineer, presenter. Includes podcast promotion. Eagle Rock church fellowship hall, 2322 Merton Ave., Los Angeles 90041. Register at bit.ly/SCCavpw420 by April 17. Info: bcooney@seccsda.org; larmstrong@seccsda.org.

ARMY OF YOUTH (April 22) Basic training: Equip @ 9:45 a.m. Energize @ 11 a.m. Empower @ 2:30 p.m. Engage @ 5 p.m. Malibu Adventist Fellowship (Webster Elementary School) 3602 Winter Canyon Rd. Info: 818-458-8884.

SAN GABRIEL ACADEMY RUN/WALK (April 23) 4th Annual 5K for Education. 8:30 a.m. On the SGA field. (Optional 1K run/walk for children up to age 9.) Run or walk at the event, sponsor a student or make a tax-deductible donation. Info: run4sga.org; 626-292-1156.

CLASSIFIED ADS

At Your Service

AFFORDABLE RETIREMENT LIVING

at the Napa Valley Adventist Retirement Estates in Yountville, Calif. Owned by the Northern California Conference. Single and double studios, or one-bedrooms, available now. Come take a tour and enjoy a complimentary vegetarian meal with us. Some of the amenities included are: Vegetarian meals, HD cable TV, Internet access in each room, and bus service. Call NVARE for information or to schedule a tour at 707-944-2994 or visit our website at info@nccsda.com/NVARE.

GET PUBLISHED! Former PPPA chief editor, published author of more than 30 books, teams with award-winning SDA writing educator. Meticulous editing, page layout, creative cover designs. We've helped countless authors realize their dreams. Introductory 20 percent discount. Call Page One Sentence Doctors, 702-372-4939; online at www.pageonesentence.com.

RELOCATING? APEX MOVING & Storage has a National Account Contract with the GC for your moving needs! Take advantage of a volume-rated discount. Be assured you are moving with one of the best! Call Marcy at 800-766-1902. Visit us at www.apexmoving.com/adventist.

THE CLERGY MOVE CENTER™ at Stevens Worldwide Van Lines is The Way To Move from one state to another! Through our national contract with the General Conference, we extend our moving services to all Adventist families. Quality is inherent. Contact one of our dedicated Move Counselors today for a no-cost/no-obligation estimate at 800-248-8313. Or learn more about us at stevensworldwide.com/sda.

THE WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER can help you naturally treat and reverse diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, osteoporosis, fibromyalgia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, cancer, substance abuse, stress, anxiety, depression and many more. Invest in your health and call 800-634-9355 for more information or visit wildwoodhealth.org/lifestyle.

WEB DESIGN! Skyrocket your business with an exceptional modern website. Our Oregon Adventist agency specializes in giving you instant credibility using our strong internet marketing background and conversion-friendly design skills. View our work at DiscoverPeppermint.com. Serving clients worldwide. Call Kama, 541-903-1180.

WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER. For 75 years we have taught people to live healthy, avoid disease and maintain

youthful energy or helped healing diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, fibromyalgia, lupus, chronic fatigue, cancer, depression, anxiety and many more. Invest in health call 800-634-9355 or visit www.wildwoodhealth.com.

Bulletin Board

ADVENTIST BOOKS: Looking for NEW Adventist titles to encourage and grow your daily walk? Visit us at www.TEACH-Services.com. For USED Adventist books visit www.LNFBooks.com. AUTHORS: If you're interested in having your book published, call 800-367-1844 for a free evaluation.

ARE YOU CALLED for Medical Missionary Work? I am looking to form a team for establishing a health retreat somewhere in the country or a holistic clinic. "Soon there will be no work done in ministerial lines, but medical missionary work" (*Counsels on Health*, pg. 533). Contact: 530-717-7708, naturopath@protonmail.com.

INTERESTED IN OPENING a health retreat in California. Looking to buy or rent a house in the country. Prefer a temperate climate. Contact naturopath@protonmail.com or call 530-717-7708.

MARANATHA MISSION IN THE U.S. Get involved with a Maranatha mission project in Grand Junction, Colo., and stay to experience outdoor adventures on the western slope of the Rockies. Help is needed to build a new church, an elementary school (K-8) and a childcare center (6-weeks—pre-K) in Grand Junction. The first of three separate two-week building sessions will begin April 30. Sign-up for this opportunity to do mission work without leaving the U.S. at maranatha.org/volunteer-opportunities.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! AMEN free clinic (Oct. 17-20) Ukiah, Calif. Need dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, physicians, ophthalmologists/optometrists, registration, hospitality, communication and general help. Info: ukiah.sda.com - click on AMEN medical clinic or call 707-695-0432.

Employment

CHRISTIAN COUPLE OR INDIVIDUAL needed to take responsibility for caregiving, vegan cooking, gardening and more. We will provide housing, equipment, pay, and a great opportunity in beautiful Oregon. Call or text Jim at 503-871-3344.

FOOD SERVICES MANAGER for Camp Yavapines in the Arizona Conference is seeking a Food Service Manager for our year-round facility in beautiful Prescott, Ariz. The ideal candidate will have talented culinary skills, be organized, highly motivated, and a proven leader

with amazing customer service skills who can provide a pleasing vegetarian dining experience. This position is directly responsible for the management of all food services provided at Camp Yavapines. Responsibilities would include personnel management, food production management, event planning and execution including financial management of the food service department. This is a full time hourly position with benefits and housing, and is open immediately. For more information, please contact Pastor Wendy Eberhardt, Camp Director. Phone: 480-996-6777, ext. 149; email: weberhardt@azconference.org.

M.D. & MID-LEVEL PRACTITIONERS wanted for our growing mental health clinic. Located in Northern Calif. where there are beautiful outdoor escapes that would be ideal for an adventurous soul. Our company is family-oriented, offers a competitive benefits package and flexible schedules. If interested, please call 530-226-7419 and ask for Rachael.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is seeking an Albion Learning and Retreat Center Manager to begin immediately. Looking for committed candidate with passion for great learning environment, ability to manage property, coordinate activities on site, possesses California Water Treatment license, bookkeeping responsibilities,

ability to work with campus facilities management, and a willing personality for warm hospitality. Located on the beautiful Mendocino coastline. For more information, please visit our website at www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

UNION COLLEGE seeks committed Adventist to direct its NCATE (CAEP) accredited Education program and Chair the Division of Human Development, effective June 2017. Doctorate and experience in K-12 church schools essential. Info: www.uccollege.edu/faculty-openings. Apply and submit C.V. to Dr. Frankie Rose, Academic Dean, at frankie.rose@uccollege.edu.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY has two faculty openings in the School of Education and Psychology. For details and to apply, please visit: jobs.wallawalla.edu. We invite you to share this announcement as you deem appropriate. To learn more about Walla Walla University, please visit: wallawalla.edu.

For Sale

REMNANT PUBLICATIONS has the perfect Study Bible, which will enhance personal devotions for both adults and children. We can also provide you with sharing books, pocketbooks and DVD's to

Recorder TODAY

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

BREAKING NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Thought from the President

There are many things to worry about, but worry is no character. Instead of worrying, use this recommendation weekly. "Think of the past with all your heart, and don't rest on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

What's Going On?

Don Jackson, North American Division president, recently introduced this short video, which portrays several major mission-focused events during 2014. Step out of your own rut for a few minutes and watch what God has been doing around our country through Adventist members young and old at <http://thepacificunion.org/2014/08/06/>.

Play Nice

The North American Division Executive Committee unanimously adopted a statement that encourages "members of Christ to be patient" between continents.

Recorder Info — 2015

Classified Ads

Those with one listing this quarter (images, etc.)

- \$65 for 10 words
- 75 cents each additional word

Display Ads

- Back cover: \$2,500
- Full inside page: \$2,000
- 1/2 page: \$1,200
- 1/3 page: \$1,000
- 1/4 page: \$875
- Per inch: \$175

Deadlines

Please note that these are the deadlines for all content for this Recorder. If you are submitting news for publication, it may be due to your local conference communication department weeks earlier. Please check with your conference communication director.

- January: Dec. 1
- February: Jan. 6
- March: Jan. 27
- April: Feb. 24
- May: March 21
- June: Apr. 28
- July: May 26
- Aug: June 23
- Sept: July 14



Have you seen the new Pacific Union e-newsletter? Sign up today!

<http://eepurl.com/4PYfz>

help you reach your community with the gospel. Visit your ABC, or www.remnant-publications.com or call 800-423-1319 for a free catalog.

WELL-EQUIPPED MEDICAL OFFICE in SF East Bay area of California ready for immediate occupancy to take over busy Family Practice of M.D. who has retired. Adjacent to 150-bed hospital. Excellent terms. Call 925-209-7256.

Missing Members

COLTON. Colton Church, 880 W Laurel St., Colton, Calif. 92324, 909-825-9344 or coltonsdachurchoffice@gmail.com: Ruth Anderson, Bill Baldwin, Cody Douglas, Yadira Gonzales, Bernice Heath, Derricka Hernandez, Marc Ines Aaron, Ingram Margaret, June Jimmyle, Latchman Roger Lehl, Sheryl Lehl, Gissel Martin Maria, Martin Lorena, Matus Diana, McFadden Geoff, Morris Yvonne, Owens Joseph, Pacheco Mario, Pacheco Mario, Pacheco, Jr. Teresa, Pacheco Kelly Perez, Marguerite Perez, Tara Sanchez Sharon, Schlunkert Miesha, Sibley Pramili Singh, Earl Tilkins, Alfred Tuazon, Melissa Watson.

Real Estate

AN END-OF-TIME REFUGE or just for your own retirement! Mixture of

meadows and woods with a variety of trees on 95 acres on a beautiful and peaceful end-of-road location with wooded, undeveloped and public lands on three sides. Gardener's paradise with open spaces, great south (and sun) exposure even in the winter. Irrigation water to spare. Live off the land and what it can produce. Artesian well produces 25 gpm. Excellent year-round spring. Beautiful custom home, 4-bdrm, 4-bath (3,680 sq. ft.) with an oversize 2-car garage, mudroom and great east views; a fully self-contained guest house; a workshop; a storage shed; and an RV site with full hookups. The main house features a bright open floor plan with both a living room and a family room, two master suites, a very large root cellar, a wood stove, a wood cook stove, a back-up generator, and much, much more. Grounds are nicely landscaped and irrigated. Located near Inchelium in NE Washington close to Lake Roosevelt and just 20+ miles from Kettle Falls. Price \$750,000. Contact Jim, 503-871-3344. Partial owner financing may be a possibility.

HOUSE FOR SALE, Trinity County, Calif. 1.6 Ac, 4B/3B, 2-car attached garage, 20'X30' outbuilding. City water & sewer. Built 2000. 15 miles to SDA church. Nice area to retire. Near river and lakes. For more info or pictures, 509-365-3607 or rnpetersen@centurylink.net.

SMALL CUSTOM COTTAGE in peaceful rural setting in southern Klamath County, Ore. Nearly 40 acres in small pine grove on largely level land. Off the grid, wired for generator power. New. \$194,900. Phone 541-783-3788.

Reunions

LODI ACADEMY HOMECOMING

Weekend (April 7-9) honoring all classes ending in 2 or 7. Info at lodiacademy.net or 209-368-2781.

"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE Academy

Alumni Reunion will take place June 9-11 at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes: '37, '47, '57, and '67. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. Info: GLAA Alumni Office at 989-427-5181 or visit www.glaa.net.

Vacation Opportunities

MAUI VACATION CONDO in Kihei. Relaxing & Affordable. Only a 3-minute walk to the beach! 1-bdrm w/king bed. Clean, comfortable, well-maintained. Sleeps 4. Fully-furnished kitchen, washer/dryer & more! FREE parking, Wi-Fi, & calls to U.S./Canada. Friendly Kihei SDA church nearby. Visit us at: www.vrbo.com/62799. Email: mauivista125@gmail.com or call Mark, 909-800-9841.

SUNRIVER, CENTRAL OREGON. Four-bedroom vacation home on the North Woodlands golf course. Two master king suites, two queens, one bunk set, hot tub, loft, Jacuzzi bath, gas log fireplace, BBQ, W/D, bikes, all resort amenities, sleeps 10, no smoking, no pets. For rates, photos and reservations call: 541-279-9553, or email schultz@crestviewcable.com.

TWO, 5 OR 7 BEDROOMS fully furnished home for rent, 2 miles from PUC on 20 acres near Las Posadas state park, vineyard views from every room. LR, DR, FR, fireplace, baby grand piano, BBQ, deck. \$500 - \$2500/week. Call Valerie 415-497-5678 or nvroger@mac.com.

VACATION RENTAL IN HONOLULU on the island of O'ahu available. Conveniently located in beautiful and serene Nu'uuanu, Relaxing and affordable. Minutes to most beaches, Chinatown and hiking trails. 2 bedroom apt. Clean, comfortable, well-maintained. Sleeps 6 comfortably. Fully-furnished kitchen, washer/ dryer & more! FREE ample parking! Friendly staff of Honolulu Central SDA church nearby. Visit us at: www.honcentral.sda.org/vacation-rentals/nelson-hale/. Online reservations available or contact by email: lalelei2@gmail.com or call/text Lori, 808-342-8370. Inquire about various discounts and make your reservation today.

Welcome Home to... SILVERADO ORCHARDS RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Affordable, All-Inclusive Monthly Rent
No Lease, Buy-ins or Add-ons

- Three Nutritious Meals Every Day
- Delicious, Fresh Salad Bar • Vegetarian or Clean Meat Options
- Activities & Excursions • Housekeeping • Transportation
- Health & Wellness Program • Hope Channel, LLBN and 3ABN
- Beauty Salon • Guest Rooms • And Much More...

"We're
all about
Family!"



Family Owned Since 1978

(707) 963-3688

www.SilveradoOrchards.com

601 Pope Street, St. Helena, CA 94574



GRADO CONSTRUCTION INC.

Adventist-Owned and Operated

www.gradoconstruction.com • (530) 344-1200

HAYWARD SPANISH CHURCH



From this ...

... to this!

Planning a new build or remodel of your church or school?
Purchasing land and need complete development services?
Need consulting services through the construction process?

LET US HELP!

At Grado, we strive to be the best value, full service, Design Build Construction Company in the Pacific Union. We offer many services to meet our clients' needs. We can keep your project on time and, most importantly, on budget. Plan well before you start! **Luke 14:28**

"Grado Construction certainly went above and beyond for the Hayward Spanish SDA Church. Their extra efforts and generosity made doing business with Grado a great experience."

Salvador Alvarado, head elder



California State Contractors License #940940

AT REST

BROOKS, ARTIE — b. Jan. 4, 1920, Luftkin, Texas; d. Jan. 20, 2017, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: sons, Gary, Richard, David; daughters, Kathy Simpson, Linda Crone, Jeannie Clark; 13 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren.

DRAKE, BOBBIE — b. Dec. 8, 1934, Muskogee, Okla.; d. Feb. 19, 2017, Moreno Valley, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Jeri Drake Lane; two grandchildren. Taught at Lynwood Elementary and Gem State Academy.

DUNSON, RAMONA — b. Nov. 6, 1925, Minneapolis, Minn.; d. Jan. 25, 2017, Simi Valley, Calif. Taught in Central California Conference; Southern Calif., at Lynwood and Glendale academies.

FULLER, CLELA — b. May 22, 1925, San Diego, Calif.; d. Dec. 27, 2016, Tracy, Calif. Survivors: sons, Gerald Ammundsen, Ron Ammundsen; daughters, Sylvia Ahn, Evelyn Curley; 12 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren. Served as a missionary in Kenya, Tanganyika and Trinidad; worked as a nurse at Paradise Valley Hospital.

GALUSHA, BEVERLY L. (COOKSON) — b. Nov. 1, 1925, Eureka, Calif.; d. Jan. 28, 2017, St. Helena, Calif. Survivors: husband, Dudley; sons, Daryl, Gary, Dale; daughter, Cindy Bothwell; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

HANSEN, BARBARA J. (CODDINGTON) — b. Oct. 24, 1929, Buffalo, N.Y.; d. Sept. 16, 2016, Walla Walla, Wash. Survivors: husband, William; son, Terry; daughter, Debbie Bullock; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

HARGROVE, KARRIE ANN — b. Jan. 14, 1962, Kingman, Ariz.; d. Jan. 23, 2017, Paulden, Ariz. Survivors: fiancée, Bill; son, Andrew Jaquez; daughter, Tiffany Richardson; parents, Betty and Alex Macias; sisters, Kristy Hargrove, Kim Delgado, Darla Worley.

HARRISON, WILLIAM — b. June 5, 1932, Ludhiana, India; d. Feb. 16, 2017, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: wife, Shanti; sons, Walter, Leo, Ronald; daughters, Violet John, Leena Oommen, Margaret Chand, Patricia Harrison, Linda Singh; 13 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

ISAEFF, JANEL (BOCK) — b. May 11, 1951, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada; d. Feb. 17, 2017, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: husband, Dale; sons, Randy, Shawn; three grandchildren.

JONES, RUTH (BERGSTROM) — b. Dec. 18, 1927, Oklahoma City, Okla.; d. Jan. 20, 2017, Lancaster, Calif. Survivors: husband, Edmund; son, Stephen;

daughters, Anita Horner, Teresa Maupin, Pam Bender. Served as a music teacher and church musician; composer, organist, pianist, choir director for children and adults in Arizona and Southern California.

KING JR., DR. JACK — b. Sept. 12, 1943, Lodi, Calif.; d. Jan. 31, 2017, Anchorage, Alaska. Survivors: sons, Jack III, Jonathan; daughters, Juliana Montooth; four grandchildren.

KOLSTAD, KENNETH — b. Nov. 8, 1920, Murdock, Minn.; d. Jan. 10, 2017, Yountville, Calif. Survivors: wife, Murrieta; son, Kelly; stepson, Dan Moore; daughters, Karin Hesselstine, Kathleen Marie; step-daughters, Jo Ella Purviance, Marletta Cantrell; one grandchild, five great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren.

LAWSON, H.D. "CORKY" — b. March 20, 1928, St. Louis, Mo.; d. Nov. 8, 2016, Bakersfield, Calif. Survivors: wife, Garnet; daughters, Connie Brandt, Cathie Gullett, Cherie Vendouris; five grandchildren; sister, Lorraine Carter. Served as principal Highland Academy (Tenn.), Pioneer Valley Academy (Ma.), Grand Ledge Academy (Mich.), Thunderbird Academy (Ariz.), Bakersfield Academy (Calif.); conference education departments in California and Texas.

LEE, BLANCHE REGINA — b. Aug. 27, 1919, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Sept. 5, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Cheryl Morrison, Sandra Blank Gibb; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

MASIH, GULZAR — b. Dec. 16, 1946, Gujranwala, Pakistan; d. Jan. 24, 2017, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: husband, Ghulam; sons, Sohail, Rohail, Nayyar; daughter, Nabila; 13 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

PETTIS, SHIRLEY NEIL — b. July 12, 1924, Mountain View, Calif.; d. Dec. 30, 2016, Rancho Mirage, Calif. Survivors: husband, LeRoy K. Thompson; son, Peter; daughter, Deborah Moyer; three grandchildren. Former member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

PRIMERO-BEACH, MELJEAN — b. Sept. 14, 1959, Philippines; d. Nov. 25, 2016, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: father, Samuel R. Primero; brother, Sammy N. Primero; sisters, Angie Hoashoo, Joy Sarti.

SCHARFFENBERG, MYRTLE DELLA-PHENE — b. Dec. 5, 1920, Bangkok, Thailand; d. Oct. 23, 2016, Cherry Valley, Calif.

Survivors: sons, Delbert, Lloyd, David, Ralph; daughters, Shirley Mann, Julia Courtney-Williams, Susan Scharffenberg, Beverly Liou, Barbara Von Kriegelstein; 22 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; 11 great-great-grandchildren; one great-great-great-grandson.

STARBUCK, CAROLINE J. (ALLEN) — b. Feb. 15, 1920, San Diego, Calif.; d. Jan. 25, 2017, Temecula, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Susan Carville, Kathleen Provonsa; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren.

STORNIG, JOHANN ARIEL — b. Dec. 27, 1930, Windisch Bleiberg, Austria; d. Jan. 1, 2017, Fremont, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Helen Stornig, Demetra Hamakiotes; two grandchildren. Served at Pacific Press Publishing translating material into nine different languages; operated the linotype machine in 34 languages.

STRAUSS, DARLENE — b. March 28, 1934, Shafter, Calif.; d. Jan. 9, 2017, Bakersfield, Calif. Survivors: husband, Eugene; sons, Micky, Verlon; daughters, Cheryl Barr, Tricia Lacy; 12 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

TOEWS, ELIZABETH IRENE (BRAZEAL) — b. May 18, 1935, Loma Linda, Calif.; d. Dec. 23, 2016, Ronan, Mont. Survivors: daughter, Lorraine Brazeal Frost; son, Robert Brazeal; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren. Taught elementary school in Southern California.

UNDERHILL, RUSSELL A. — b. Feb. 28, 1921, Napa, Calif.; d. Feb. 7, 2017, Napa, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Carol Gage, Judith Henry.

VERDE, ESTHER T. — b. Oct. 17, 1919, Philippines; d. Feb. 1, 2017, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: sons, Alva, Francis; daughter, Elenita V. Espiritu; 11 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren.

WATKINS, CHARLES "CHUCK" EVERETT III — b. April 24, 1952, Glendale, Calif.; d. Jan. 28, 2017, Phoenix, Ariz. Survivors: wife, Linda; sons, Charles Everett IV, Michael Lloyd; daughter, Amanda Marie Norman.

WHITLOCK, AUDREY M. — b. July 13, 1921, Oshawa, Ontario, Canada; d. Jan. 4, 2017, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: son, Gary; daughter, Lynda Randolph; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

ADVERTISING

Advertising is accepted as a service to Seventh-day Adventist Church members in the Pacific Union. The *Recorder* management reserves the right to refuse any advertisement, especially ads not related to the needs and practices of the Church membership. Acceptance of any advertising shall be considered a matter of accommodation and not a matter of right, nor shall it be construed to constitute approval of the product or service advertised.

Payment — Payment in advance must accompany all classified advertisements or they will not be published. Display ads for known advertisers will be billed. To pay by credit card, please call 805-413-7280.

How to Submit Advertising — Classified ads must be sent with payment to the Recorder office (commdept@puonline.org). Display ads should be arranged with the editor (alicia@puonline.org).

Classified Rates — \$70 for 50 words; 75 cents each additional word.

Display Rates (Full Color Only) — Back cover, \$4,150; full page, \$3,750; 1/2-pg., \$2,220; 1/4-pg., \$1,190; 1/8-pg., \$600; \$155 per column inch.

Information — Circulation is approximately 76,000 homes, and magazines are scheduled to arrive in homes by the last Thursday of the previous month. For more information about advertising, please click on the Advertising tab at www.pacificunionrecorder.com, email commdept@puonline.org or call 805-413-7280.

2017 Deadlines — These are the advertising deadlines for the *Recorder*. Your local conference news deadlines will be earlier.

May: March 28
June: April 25
July: May 30
August: June 22
September: August 1
October: August 29
November: September 26
December: October 31

CONTRIBUTIONS

The *Recorder* pages are assigned to the local conferences, colleges and health care institutions, and all content comes through the communication directors in those organizations. If you have a news story/idea, calendar announcement, etc., please contact your local communication director. See page 2 for contact information. Want tips for writing for us? See www.dailywritingtips.com/the-art-of-writing-news.

CALLED TO LEAD

Pacific Union College has embarked on a national effort to select the college's 23rd president. We seek a leader who is enthusiastic about the distinctive culture of a small, residential, liberal arts college in a stunning natural setting.

Founded in 1882, PUC has been charged with an important mission: providing an excellent undergraduate liberal arts education that prepares students for successful careers and service to both God and others. The next president will articulate this mission to further strengthen the college's reputation for excellence in Seventh-day Adventist higher education.

A successful candidate is expected to be an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, with a doctorate in an academic discipline and demonstrated leadership experience in higher education. College-level teaching experience is preferred. To review the complete leadership profile, visit [**puc.edu/presidential-search**](http://puc.edu/presidential-search).

Nominations and expressions of interest are welcome and should be sent directly to the Presidential Search Committee at search@puc.edu.



One Angwin Avenue
Angwin, CA 94508
puc.edu

April 2017

ArizonaNEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

A Life of "Victory"



Ed Keyes
President

We all aspire to live a victorious Christian life. My favorite Bible story that has a truly clear "victory" in it comes from the Old Testament. The story is found in 2 Chronicles 20:1-30.

This passage is fairly unknown for two reasons: first, it's in the Old Testament; and it's far enough along in the OT most people never get to it in their personal Bible reading.

It is one of the most amazing stories in the Bible. But more than anything else, it is a story of victory. It's the story of Good King Jehoshaphat. In those days, you were considered an oddity if you were a king, especially if you were a good one. The clear majority of the kings of both the United Kingdom of Israel or the divided kingdoms of Judah and Israel were not only bad kings but despicable ones. With Jehoshaphat, they had a good one, and everybody knew it.

While King Jehoshaphat struggled with his son, evidently he understood how to administrate his kingdom, and he also knew a valuable principle for victorious Christian living.

Let's look at this ancient king's story and see one of the elements necessary to become a victorious Christian warrior.

In 2 Chron. 20: 1, we see the Moabites, the Amonites, the Meunites, and all the other "-ites" trying to band together to overthrow Judah.

In verse two we read how "a gigantic army is going to attack!"

Isn't it always a gigantic army that assails us?

Whenever there's trouble it seems like we always inflate the numbers a little bit.

The only problem in Jehoshaphat's case was the numbers were not exaggerated—they were true. Judah was not a very powerful nation at that time, and each one of the nations that stood up against them were at least as strong as Judah individually.

Verse three says Jehoshaphat was afraid. Is it a sin to be afraid? No! But to live in fear is a sin. And it is a miserable way to live.

Jehoshaphat had good reason to be afraid but he did not live in fear. What did he do? He sought the Lord. Amen!

The first element for becoming a victorious Christian warrior is to seek the Lord!

Seek the Lord when you feel outnumbered, afraid, when doubt attacks, when temptation knocks at the door, when the trials of life seem too hard to handle. Seek the Lord always!

Psalms 56:3 says, "When I am afraid, I will trust in you."

Matthew 6: 33 says, "Seek first God's Kingdom."

If we will first seek God before we do anything else, our day will go better. But it's even more imperative when we are being attacked. Whatever is attacking you today, remember this first principal for victorious Christian living — "Seek the Lord."



Ed Keyes, President

This newsletter is stitched into the Recorder and is only available to Arizona Conference members. Each conference within the Pacific Union provides a newsletter such as this in the Recorder every-other month.



Dedication of the Gila Mountain Church

By Sharon Accord

More than 170 members and guests attended a day of celebration and rejoicing Sabbath, February 25, at the Gila Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Church in the foothills east of Yuma, Arizona. Exactly four years ago members were celebrating the grand opening of their beautiful new church. Today they were celebrating the final payment to the Yuma Central Seventh-day Adventist Church — their parent church.

Pastor Mel Phillips welcomed guests saying, "We appreciate your presence here today. This is an exciting day in this church's history. We enjoy the new as well as familiar faces as we gather together to share in this dedication service. Together let us come into the presence of our Lord, who promises to be with us as we hear His Word, pray for His presence, worship

The Gila Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Church is completely debt free!



and praise Him together!"

A 15-year loan of \$110,000 has been paid off in just three years and nine months thanks to the faithful giving and vision of the members, thus leaving no doubt that God wanted a church presence east of the city of Yuma.

The morning services included a Power Point review of God's church from New Testament times until now by Pastor Melvin Phillips. Yuma Central Pastor George Boundey offered words of encouragement and appreciation for the heroic act of faith by the Gila Mountain members. He also paid tribute to the Maranatha volunteers who made the church a reality with their generous

contribution of time and talents.

Always a cause for celebration, Don Stone entered the waters of baptism after being convicted to follow Jesus because of recent evangelistic meetings held by Harold Aylor.

Arizona Conference President Ed Keyes presented an uplifting sermon entitled "The Power Behind the Church."

After a wonderful potluck luncheon, there was an afternoon program of praise and music. During that service, over 70 Maranatha workers who had come to Yuma in 2010 to build the initial shell of the church were honored by Power Point photos shown of the building of the church. At the time a local newspaper article said, "the average age of the workers was 72 years." Several of these workers returned for this special day to share in the joy of the Dedication Service.

Members recalled how Gila Mountain's first church service was held in a home in April 1995, and then later moved into a three section prefab building in October of 1996. That building is now used as the fellowship hall. The new church building that was built starting in 2010 was used for its first church service in January 2013.

Now the members are making plans to add two new additions, one to expand their children's divisions and one for a larger kitchen and fellowship area.



Evangelist Harold Aylor stands with Don Stone as he is about to be baptized by Pastor Melvin Phillips.



Yuma Central Pastor George Boundey accepts a plaque in appreciation from building committee chairman Harold Weir.



Lake Havasu City Presents **Revelation Now**

By Hugh Barton

Late December 2016 the Revelation Now bus pulled into Lake Havasu City carrying Evangelists Jac and Dena Colon. Little did the members know that in a few days their church would change forever!

Opening night, January 6, people who had received handbills or viewed the newspaper ad for Revelation Now began arriving an hour early. By the time the first meeting started, the church was filled, the parking lot was overflowing, and there was excitement in the air. As the gospel was presented, people's hearts were stirred and lives were changed.

As the Colons presented the messages each night, the dedicated members faithfully supported the meetings. Attendance remained above average



Because of God's answered prayers, five people were baptized, three were rebaptized and seven joined by profession of faith.

throughout the meetings as the prayer team prayed earnestly for the people attending. Nightly, many young people experienced Jesus and learned about creation in the children's and youth programs.

Even before the meetings began, Lake Havasu members started praying for their friends and associates to attend the Revelation Now meetings. Because of



Evangelist Jac Colon presented the Revelation Now series.

God's answered prayers, five people were baptized, three were rebaptized and seven joined by profession of faith. Seven more people continue to study, their decisions pending.

Some say evangelism doesn't work anymore! But in Lake Havasu City, God has shown that it does. We would like to personally thank each person in the Pacific Union Conference, the Arizona Conference, and the Lake Havasu City SDA Church for the evangelism dollars donated so meetings like this are possible!

VBS Training Inspires Leaders *By Manny Cruz*

Sixty-three leaders representing 25 churches from throughout the Arizona Conference attended this year's VBS Training and Expo held at the Camelback Church rotunda.

The featured course was the Maker Fun Factory. Its slogan, "Imagine a world where curious kids become hands-on inventors who discover they're lovingly crafted by God. Spark creativity with interactive decoration and experiences. Maker Fun Factory Vacation Bible School transforms your church into a place buzzing with excitement!"

The day started with an introduction to the VBS curriculum followed by a hands-on Decorating Station where attendees got a chance to experience "Maker Fun Factory" from a kid's perspective.

The afternoon included giveaways, music, an "Imagination Station," snacks, several interactive activities and lots of fun. Each church represented received a complimentary VBS Kit as well as resources valued at over \$250.

This year's event was hosted by the Camelback Seventh-day Adventist Church and organized by the Arizona Conference



Marlene Navarro, Eva Gonzalez, Gladys Gonzalez and Evelyn Saravia played key roles in the weekend program.

Children's Ministry Team led by Eva Gonzales, Volunteer Coordinator.

One attendee commented, "I have never seen so much fun, excitement and passion for children's ministry in one room."

Arizona Teachers and Preachers Unite

By Phil Draper

Arizona Conference educators and pastors met for a one-day joint session at Thunderbird Adventist Academy February 21. Conference administrators united the two groups not only for fellowship and camaraderie, but to create a spirit of unity in mission.

Arizona Conference President Ed Keyes said, "This year we begin a journey to enhance the partnership between pastors and educators. Our theme is TEAM — 'Together Educators and Ministers' — working together to save every child and engage them in a lifelong discipleship journey!"

"Too often we don't see our work as a collaboration to win souls for the kingdom," said Arizona Conference Ministerial Secretary Jose Marin. "We're on the same TEAM. Getting to know each other as co-workers is a win-win."

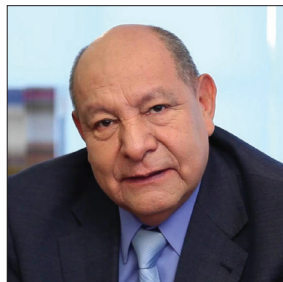
Sergio Manente was the keynote speaker for the TEAM Meeting. He currently serves as pastor of the Richland Seventh-day Adventist Church in Richland, Washington and is the founder of TrueWind Consulting. He has been training and equipping leaders for the past 20 years while influencing the lives of corporate executives, school administrators, clergy, small business leaders and many others.

His greatest passion is to help next generation leaders discover their God-given life design, and become difference makers in a world so desperately needing fresh and creative leaders and the most important leader of all, Jesus Christ.

Stories of his early education in Italy under the teaching of a very godly nun Miss Pavoni changed the course of his life. When his family migrated to the United States he was ever mindful of her love for him. Her influence and unconditional love in the classroom made an impression that influenced him to become an equally compassionate educator.

An afternoon was spent in the Thunderbird gymnasium where teachers and pastors interacted with games and other learning activities under Manente's direction.

Keynote Speaker for the Arizona Ministerial Council February 22 and 23 was international evangelist Alejandro Bullón. Born in Peru he has worked for more than 40 years as Ministerial



Evangelist Alejandro Bullón was such a blessing to the pastors.



Pastor Sergio Manente involved teachers and pastors in lively discussions and games.

Secretary for the Adventist Church in South America. At present, he is retired and lives in Brazil. His greatest passion is public evangelism and communicating the gospel by radio, television, and the Internet.

Arizona Shepherdess Director Lillian Keyes planned a special meeting for pastoral wives on Wednesday. Guest speaker Rita Stevens and her husband Elder Jim Stevens worked in the Texico Conference for many years where he was Conference president. Rita has worked with ministers' spouses and had wonderful, inspiring and highly motivating materials to share with the ladies.



Arizona Teachers and Ministers unite for a one-day session at Thunderbird Adventist Academy.

CENTRAL Acts

NEWSLETTER FOR CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

April 2017

Upcoming Events

APRIL

7-9 | Pathfinder Bike-A-Thon
at Castle Airbase.

21-23 | Hispanic Men's Retreat
at Camp Wawona.

28-30 | Singles Ministry Spring Rally
at CCC Office.

28-30 | FeJa Hispanic Youth Camp
at Camp Wawona.

MAY

5-7 | African American Mr. & Mrs. Retreat
at Camp Wawona.

7 | Adventurers Tyke-A-Thon
at FAA.

14-17 | Work Bee at Soquel

19-21 | Pathfinder Fair
at CVCA.

INSIDE

- 2 **President's Message**
Camp Meeting Blessing
- 3 **GLOW 1 Million Cont.**
- 3 **Leadership Q&A**
- 4 **600 Women Celebrate God's Grace at Tenaya Lodge**

GLOW 1 Million: Mission Trip to Ukraine and Romania

Seven days before many evangelistic series' began in and around Romania on Feb. 10, the GLOW 1 Million

Bucharest Mission Trip prepared the country for the campaign in their area. The back panel of each GLOW tract had an invitation to one of the 2,017 meeting locations and a website with information on how to find a location nearby.

Bucharest, missionaries met divine appointments God had set up for them. Twenty-five church members exceeded the goal of 1 million and actually distributed over 2 million tracts, blanketing Ukraine and Romania. These GLOW tracts were passed out in conjunction with the General Conference's Total Member Involvement (TMI) initiative and Mission 365's efforts in Ukraine.

Continued on page 3 >

Despite temperatures never rising above freezing, and navigating traffic in downtown

General Conference President Ted Wilson and the Total Member Involvement Initiative



Camp Meeting Blessing

Did you know?

- In 1888, the Seventh-day Adventist congregation in Fresno built the largest church building in town.
- At the end of the 19th century, congregations began popping up along the coast, the Bay Area, and the Central Valley.
- Central California Conference was officially organized on March 1, 1911. J.H. Behrens was the first president.
- The first official constituency meeting was held in 1912 in Hanford with 43 delegates and 15 churches.
- The Central California Conference office was in Fresno until 1932 when it relocated to San Jose.



Ramiro Cano
President

WE RECENTLY RECEIVED WORD at the conference office that someone was interested in purchasing our Soquel Conference Center. The question was pondered: are we interested in selling? “Oh heavens no!” was the immediate reply. What a blessed and sacred piece of real estate the Lord gifted this conference with. And yet, the blessings come not so much because of the Soquel property itself but because of what transpires there...
CAMP MEETING!

The Lord has affirmed the ministry of camp meeting over and over again through the many lives changed and miracles wrought over the years. I am so grateful for the many evangelism offering partners who continue to invest in heaven’s vineyard. One evangelism dollar invested, results in countless interest-bearing blessings for the kingdom. Let me share one example, which multiplied ten fold:

Her name is Yolanda Martinez-Santos, a Souls West Cross Trainer. She facilitated a 10-week evangelistic practicum in the Los Banos church territory. During her second week she knocked on the door of Erica. Erica was soon baptized (1), her son was baptized (2), her brother was baptized (3), her neighbor was baptized (4), and her parents have also been baptized (6,7). Her sister and her sister’s family are taking Bible studies (8,9,10). And her husband, who is still a member of another faith, is attending church on a regular basis with her.

One worker funded, one door knocked that

resulted in ten precious people influenced for the kingdom thus far. This blessing is multiplied time and time again.

Camp Meeting 2016 concluded with \$734,000 of donated funds for the ensuing evangelism cycle. I am so happy to report that by the end of February 2017, the fund had increased to \$960,000. Praise the Lord from Whom all blessings flow and for the commitment of each donor investing in heaven’s sowing.

“[God] is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish”

2 PETER 3:9

God is passionate about reaching the lost, and He is honored and blessed when He sees His people just as passionate as He is. That passion, motivated by love, was demonstrated at the cross. I see your passion demonstrated at camp meeting every year during those 10 days, and yet, that passion continues to be tangibly experienced as the Spirit moves your heart to satisfy the pledges made and even new giving realized in the succeeding months... we are so richly blessed to see this active passionate dimension.

In Acts chapter 8, we find the story of God’s passion to rescue a lost Eunuch. God knew all about this man in the chariot, He knew his name, and the country he was from. He also knew the purpose of his journey to Jerusalem, about the yearning of his heart, and about the exact moment when he would come to a certain point on that desert road. The Spirit of God then devises a “connecting-the-dots” plan for His servant Philip, who has been working in Samaria, to come and reach that place just at the right time.

You see, our Father, Who loves us with an everlasting love, knows every soul traveling on the desert road. And He arranges just the right individual, like Yolanda Martinez-Santos, to knock on a door just at the right time. In addition, our Father also moves on the hearts of the donors who would fund that timely connection.

God has become for me the God that connects the dots. Why? The following verse gives us the answer:

"[God] is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish." (2 Peter 3:9)

We praise the Lord for the Soquel property, camp meeting, the sacred evangelism fund partners and for the Almighty God of the universe affirming how He daily influences property, human and financial resources, programs, churches and schools to connect souls to the salvific influences of the kingdom. To God be the glory! ■

Raniso

GLOW'S GLOBAL IMPACT

< GLOW 1 Million continued from page 1



GLOW missionaries in Romania

- GLOW is currently cooperating with Adventist Missions to develop tracts for the major world religions including Buddhism, Muslim, Hinduism, and Judaism.
- Church members in the North American Division distribute over 1.6 million GLOW tracts each month, generating incredible stories. For instance: One tract on the state of the dead found its way from California to Cameroon, was translated into French, and read by a Baptist preacher to 80 people at a funeral.
- The GLOW lineup has reached 40 titles. The newest include topics on diabetes, the investigative judgment, the Protestant Reformation, and health messages geared toward children.
- Church leadership in El Salvador is in the process of printing 1.6 million tracts. Colombia is aiming to print 5 million. The Japanese Union is working toward distributing 1 million tracts before their TMI meetings.
- Adventist Mission did a beautiful job covering the story with a testimony: <https://www.adventistmission.org/2-million-glow-tracts-being-shared-in-romania-and-ukraine>

LEADERSHIP Q & A

From the office of the president

Q: What is Central California Conference's position on women's ordination?

A: In 2015, a majority of the delegates at the General Conference (GC) session in San Antonio voted "No" on allowing Adventist divisions to decide whether or not to ordain women to the gospel ministry in their territory. This means that the world church maintains its current policy, which allows women to be ordained as local elders and also continues to allow commissioned ministers, who can be male or female to serve as local pastors. CCC has opted to move forward in harmony with the GC vote, and continues to support the current policy. ■

600 Women Celebrate God's Grace at Tenaya Lodge



January 27-29, 2017 marked the 20th Women's Retreat at Tenaya Lodge. The event with Elizabeth Talbot and Shelley Quinn was proof that God answered above and beyond all that was asked of Him, making it a fun and Holy Spirit-filled weekend. Over 600 women embraced the retreat topic, "Celebrating God's Grace." Much prayer went into planning as the Women's Ministries Committee began the yearlong planning for this event.



With a desire to make each woman attending feel special, each one was prayed for beforehand and presented with a personal prayer letter upon arrival. Conveying that He cares for each woman individually, God's promises were revealed. And the prayers continued throughout the weekend with a prayer room and an anointing service that included over one hundred women.

Attendees were eager to share their experiences of this life-changing retreat.

"I leave with renewed spiritual strength and commitment," reflects Shirley Seidenstricker.

"It challenged me spiritually and taught me new spiritual insights," revealed Angel Johnson.

"The speakers explained very well how to give hope, and what God can provide for us everyday," explained another guest.

"They [the speakers] each had a message from God straight to me," admits another.

"I had a profound season of prayer and repentance on Sabbath," explained Laurie Bradshaw.

"He cleansed me, forgave me and covered me with His love. I will hold fast to His promises. It has changed my life," testified another.

Praise the Lord that He came through and did above and beyond all that we asked Him to do as in Ephesians 3:20. ■

EDITOR

Costin Jordache

COPY EDITOR

Sue Schramm

DESIGN

Sergio Cano
Valerie Thomas
Rachel Ortiz

Contact Us

Central California
Conference Of
Seventh-Day
Adventists

P.O. Box 770
Clovis, CA 93613

559.347.3000

Story Submission

ccc.adventist.org/
MyStory

eNews Subscription

ccc.adventist.org/
SignMeUp

Visit Us Online at

ccc.adventist.org



CAMP MEETING

JULY 13-22, 2017

REGISTER TODAY AT CCC.ADVENTIST.ORG/CAMPMEETING

FEATURED SPEAKERS **MARK FINLEY** AND **DEBLEAIRE SNELL**
FEATURED SPANISH SPEAKERS **ROGER HERNANDEZ** AND **ARNOLDO R. CRUZ FIGUEROA**
CONCERT BY **MICHAEL CARD**

WINDOWS
OF HOPE

HO'IKE

VISIONS OF PARADISE

APRIL 2017 | NEWS, INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION FOR THE HAWAII CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

PAGE 2 | Hawaii Conference is taking its 20/20 Vision for education seriously. But what's the point? Why does Adventist education matter? Find out, and get involved today!

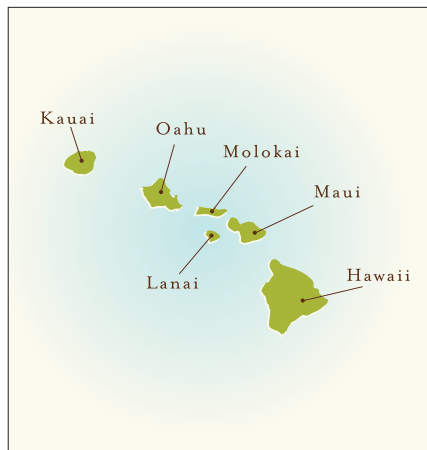
PAGE 3 | Students looking for summer income may want to consider Ke Ola, the conference literature evangelism program. Also, what are Adventurer clubs, and how can you start one?

PAGE 4 | In Hawaii, opportunities about to serve God and our fellow man. God doesn't need our money to accomplish His work, but He allows us to grow our faith by contributing.

20/20 VISION FOR THE KINGDOM

The Bible is absolutely clear: "Where there is no vision the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18). So, what if we were to commit to grow the Hawaii Conference 20 by 20 — 20 percent by the year 2020? That is our 20/20 vision. We are talking Kingdom growth for Christ in reaching Hawaii for Him.

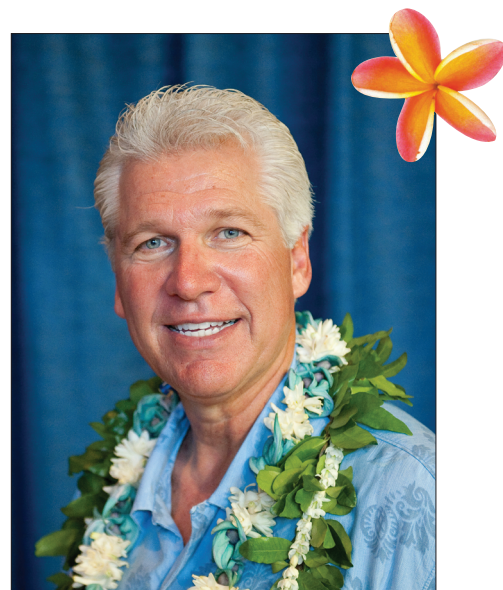
This kingdom growth challenge is one for all of us. What if our tithe were to grow by 20 percent? Can you imagine the potential and possibilities for kingdom growth? What about our schools? The 20/20 vision would see our enrollments increase by 20 percent. How about 20 percent more baptisms than ever before? Now that's kingdom growth! This 20/20 vision also includes growth in our summer camps and literature ministries programs. What if 20 percent more young people made a commitment for Christ during the weeks of camp? Alleluia! A 20/20 vision.



As I read the stories of the New Testament friends of Jesus, it is clear that they were ignited with passion to grow. Theirs was a vision to not just grow by 20 percent, but to reach the world for Christ. They had a passion for the Savior. They had a passion for the Savior's second coming. And they had a passion for the salvation of the lost. Their lives were set ablaze with these three fiery passions. And the Bible is replete with their stories.

And what about the heritage and parentage of this early Advent movement? You want to talk about the all-consuming passion of the founders of the Seventh-day Adventist church? Again, a passion to reach this planet for Christ. We're talking about James and Ellen White. We're talking about Joseph Bates and J.N. Andrews. Our pioneers would eat and breath these same three all consuming passions. They had a passion for the Savior. They had a passion for the Savior's Second Coming. And they had a passion for the salvation of the lost. They had a vision and their lives were set ablaze for Kingdom growth.

My challenge is the same for each of us as



**Ralph S. Watts III,
Hawaii Conference President**

followers of Christ. My dream is for each of us to take seriously this 20/20 vision and grow this Hawaii Conference for the glory of God.

Because of Him,

Ralph S. Watts III



Adventist Education Pursues 20/20 Vision

BY MIKI AKEO-NELSON

In 2015, President Ralph Watts challenged the Hawaii Conference to increase the overall church `ohana by 20 percent by the year 2020. Adventist education supports this endeavor and is working to increase overall student enrollment, as well as annual student baptisms.

Adventist education in Hawaii seeks to:

- be intentional about spiritual growth by creating a Christ-like environment in which students are treated with dignity and respect
- be intentional about spiritual growth by inviting each student to accept Jesus Christ's love through His gift of salvation
- be intentional about spiritual growth by ensuring that each child, no matter his/her age, knows that he/she has a role in the family of God so that he/she may worship (Reach Up), evangelize (Reach Out), fellowship (Reach Around) and nurture (Reach In)
- be intentional about academic growth by offering education programs that meet or exceed national and state standards
- be intentional about supporting teachers with necessary training, practical skills and methodologies to further equip them in meeting the growing needs of students
- be intentional about academic growth by supporting differentiated instruction so that every child can get the attention and support needed
- be intentional about academic growth by expanding the worldview of our local kids — many NEVER see beyond our islands
- be intentional about organizing fiscally sound programs that demonstrate proper stewardship of resources, including tuition, subsidies and donations
- be intentional in transparent conversations that strengthen His work

Join the efforts of Adventist education in meeting the 20/20 vision. Enroll your child or a child you know in any of our 13 schools. Encourage your neighbors, coworkers and others in your sphere of influence to do the same. Get involved at your local church school. Pray for students, teachers, principals, classroom volunteers, and school boards. Together we just might exceed our 20 percent goal before 2020.

Get Ready for Summer!

Summer Camp

We've got a great summer planned for campers and staff. Have you signed up yet? Register now at www.hawaiiisdayouth.org.

Summer 2017 CAMP WAIANAE

| | |
|------------|------------------------------|
| June 25-30 | Adventure Camp (ages 6 to 9) |
| July 2-7 | Junior Camp (ages 10 to 13) |
| July 9-14 | Teen Camp (ages 14 to 18) |

Literature Evangelism

Need a life-changing experience exploring Hawaii, making friends, earning money for school, and impacting your community for Jesus? Then Ke Ola is for you! Ke Ola is now accepting applications for our nine-week canvassing program, which runs June 4 through Aug. 6. For more information, go to www.hawaiiisdayouth.org. (See photos, right.)



20/20 Vision

Growing enrollment, effectiveness, and experiences in youth ministry is our passion. We create places for youth to come, be transformed, and become ministry leaders themselves as Pathfinders, campers, literature evangelists, and more.

Camp Waianae is one place we are striving for radical growth. By 2020, we hope to offer summer camp to each camper for just \$100! We want every church and school to have pride in and feel ownership of Camp Waianae. We can only accomplish this by being good stewards with the campers, leaders, and facilities we have while we're building for the future.

With new bathrooms, additional cabins, and other activities and amenities, we will be able to host larger and more diverse groups. This year, we have the opportunity to build a new bathhouse and offer summer camp to neighbor island campers for \$100. This is just the beginning. Pray for us as we continue to trust in God's 20/20 vision for our youth.

CLUBS LEAD KIDS ON FAMILY ADVENTURES

The purpose of the Hawaii Conference Children's Ministry Department is to ensure that children experience God's eternal love for them. The love children need is not theoretical, but relational. This demands that our efforts strengthen the child's relationship with the local church and, most importantly, with their immediate family.

One of the best ways to develop these relationships is through Adventurer ministry. Many mistakenly see Adventurers only as younger Pathfinders. While we hope every Adventurer one day becomes a Pathfinder, Adventurers is supposed to be a family ministry where children and their families grow closer to God and to each other.

Hawaii currently has 150 Adventurers across eight clubs. By 2020, we hope to see 20 percent growth in the number of Adventurer clubs and overall membership, but we believe God can do even more. We want to see an Adventurer club in every church. Does your church have an Adventurer ministry? All it takes is a few families to begin, meeting just twice a month. We've heard of many churches that are already meeting, but haven't yet formally organized as Adventurer clubs.

One opportunity to connect with other Adventurers is to attend Family Camp at Camp Waianae, April 21-23. Families will enjoy worship, nature walks, puppets, honors and crafts based on our theme, "Friends Forever."

Call 808-208-5644 to see how we can support your efforts to reach children and their families for the kingdom.





CONFERENCE POTPOURRI

BY GERALD CHRISTMAN, HAWAII CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Aloha, Hawaii Conference Ohana,

The Hawaii Conference Executive Committee met Sunday, Jan. 29, to review reports as well as to finalize financial plans for this year.

Baptisms and those joining Hawaii Conference churches by profession of faith totaled 167 in 2016. We praise and thank the Lord for each of these individuals. We lost 62 through death and membership removals. Aggregate membership from our 33 Hawaiian congregations stood at 6,189 at the end of 2016.

The Committee also received an update on the demolition and reconstruction of new bathrooms at Camp Waianae. An architect and an engineer are working on technical plans. The camp's occupancy rate has increased significantly, so it will be a challenge to find empty space in the calendar for construction.

The Executive Committee approved the 2017 proposed budget presented by Treasurer Bie An “Fong” Tjia. Committee members were concerned that total tithe in 2016 was similar to that of 2004. Adjusting for 12 years of inflation means tithe is much lower, and if the trend continues, current conference operations will be unsustainable. Since a very close relationship exists between tithe and spiritual

growth, we naturally expect that God's church will grow financially as it grows numerically.

Some believe that the primary objective for a tithing plan is because the church needs money. While it's true that tithe finances God's work, this is a secondary purpose. God would ask us to return tithe even if there were no financial needs. Adam and Eve had their dream jobs in the Garden of Eden. They could not have envisioned a better economy nor lifestyle: no rent or mortgage payments, a zero percent tax rate and an all-you-can-eat grocery plan. The best part was enjoying God's presence.

And then God introduced His “tithing” plan. God told Adam and Eve to stay away from what He claimed to be exclusively His. He reserved a tree in the midst of the Garden of Eden. This restriction was to be a test of Adam and Eve's love and loyalty for God — but not because God was destitute and in need of greater resources.

Adam and Eve failed the test and were evicted from the garden. They lost their jobs and went bankrupt in every dimension of life. It was the single most colossal human failure in the history of this planet; and it revolved around a fundamental aspect of tithing — not taking for them-



selves what God had claimed to be exclusively His.

Tithing today includes money — but it's much more. Tithing financially supports the mission of our conference, which, in turn, subsidizes our churches, schools and other missionary endeavors. But tithing should not be limited to money. Tithing is also about honesty, faithfulness and loyalty in returning that which God claims as His.

Tithing seems to be a test of who will live in God's garden. Wherever the heart is, our pocketbooks follow.

Kingdom MATTERS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

by **Jim Pedersen**

*President
Northern California Conference*

Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

401 Taylor Boulevard • P.O. Box 23165
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

(925) 685-4300 • Fax (888) 635-6934

www.nccsda.com • info@nccsda.com

www.facebook.com/NorCalAdventistsinAction

President, Jim Pedersen

Executive Secretary, Marc Woodson

Treasurer, John Rasmussen

VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 2 • April 2017



Walking Where Jesus Walked

Several times through the years, I've had the opportunity to visit the beautiful city of Jerusalem. There is so much history there, with a long list of "must-see" spots related to biblical history. It's hard to describe the feeling of being in a place that has been inhabited for so many centuries, visited by prophets, priests, and kings – as well as by the Son of God Himself. Pilgrims still come every year – Jews, Christians, and Muslims alike.

The city is in the same location as it was when the Canaanites built a fortification there. Later King David conquered it and made it the capital city of Israel. King Solomon built a magnificent temple on what is known today as Temple Mount, which was destroyed by the armies of Babylon and later rebuilt under the leadership of Zerubbabel and significantly enhanced by King Herod. Much of Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D., with the massive retaining walls from the temple area among the few things remaining, known today as the Western Wall or Wailing Wall.

But for me, the most significant sites to see in Jerusalem involve the death and resurrection of Jesus: the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, and the crucifixion,

burial, and resurrection locations. Did you know that two different places shown to visitors both claim to be the "actual" locations of Golgotha/Calvary and Jesus' tomb? One is contained under the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the other is known as Gordon's Calvary.

Scripture records the history with these words: "Then Pilate turned Jesus over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus away. Carrying the cross by Himself, He went to the place called

"It's hard to describe the feeling of being in a place that has been inhabited for so many centuries, visited by prophets, priests, and kings – as well as by the Son of God Himself."

Place of the Skull (in Hebrew, *Golgotha*). There they nailed Him to the cross. Two others were crucified with Him, one on either side, with Jesus between them"

(John 19:16-18, *New Living Translation*).

The debate about where the actual events occurred – the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Jesus – will probably not be solved any time soon. However, the reality of what He did continues to be a life-changing fact for people around the world. Jesus went to the cross of Calvary in order to make a way through the maze of sin for any who choose Him as Lord of their lives. And His resurrection proves that eternal life is a reality, as well. I pray that there is no question in your life about what Calvary means to you today – and forever.

Peace.

The Kingdom Matters newsletter is stitched into the **Recorder** and is only available to Northern California Conference members. Each conference within the Pacific Union provides a newsletter for its constituents in the **Recorder** every other month.

NCC Women's Ministries Training Conference Inspires Local Church Leaders

Did you know that more than 109,000 people throughout the world were baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 2014 as a direct result of women's ministries?*

This statistic is not much of a surprise to NCC Women's Ministries Coordinator Mary Jo Lauderdale. "A women's ministry event provides a safe place for women to share with each other and to grow closer to Christ," she said.

Each year, Lauderdale and the NCC Women's Ministries Advisory Council plan a conference-wide training weekend for those interested in local church women's ministries. This year's event—attended by more than 175 women—was held in late January at the Orangevale church.

The keynote speaker was Arlene Taylor, founder and president of Realizations Inc., a nonprofit corporation that engages in brain-function research and provides educational resources. "She presented a thought-provoking symposium on how we women can gain greater freedom in our walk with God when we understand how our brains are created," said Lodi English Oaks church member Stephanie Mason, who serves on the advisory council.

The women also attended seminars on a wide variety of topics, including grief, marriage, the book of Ruth, life after divorce, and more.

The conference included separate meetings especially designed for teens, led by Santa Rosa church Associate

Pastor Krystalynn Martin. Her theme was "Growing in Relationship with God and Others." There were two seminars just for young women: "Healthy Relationships," presented by NAD Assistant Director of Women's Ministries Erica Jones, and "Connecting with God through Bible Journaling," led by Julieta Whiteside, a member of the advisory council.

Cassie Navarro, former young women's coordinator on the advisory council, was happy to see programming especially for teens.



Members of the Women's Ministries Advisory Council gather at the conference.

She hopes that more churches will start ministries aimed at young women. "It's important that they have a group of girls they can relate to and share problems with ... a place where they can go and be themselves."

For many years, NCC women's ministries has sponsored the Congo Widows Mission Project, which has provided goats to widows in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and has financed church and school building projects. Now it will also contribute to the Perinatal Rescue Network (PRN), a nonprofit organization that works to lower mother and newborn death rates associated with the birth process. PRN provides education and resources in the DRC and other countries.

Lisa Cordova, PRN vice president, and Dawn Varney, board member, spoke to the women about their organization. "Something that really differentiates us is our focus on empowerment and cooperation with local leaders who already want to make a difference in their communities," said Cordova. "We see these people as the heroes who just need a boost, some resources, education, and reinforcement to make their communities safer places to give birth." (Find out more at perinatalrescue.org.)

The advisory council is already working on plans for next year's conference. In the meantime, visit nccsda.com/womensministries for ideas and resources. "We hope each of our NCC churches will develop an attractive, Christ-centered, relational ministry where women will have the opportunity to meet Jesus," said Lauderdale.

*2016 Annual Statistical Report from the General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research

In January, NCC Women's Ministries Coordinator Mary Jo Lauderdale received a North American Division Excellence in Ministry Award at the Adventist Ministries Convention in Tucson, Arizona. She's pictured (on right) with NAD Women's Ministries Director Carla Baker.



PHOTO PIETER DAMSTEEGT



PHOTO JULIE LORENZ



PHOTO DAVINA D. BROWN

(Top) Brain expert Arlene Taylor speaks to attendees. (Above) The Orangevale Girls Chorus sings during the conference.

NCC Women's Ministries News

(Right) Last October, Stockton Mayfair church Women's Ministries Leader Beverly Mitchell spoke at the church's event titled "Love Doesn't Hurt" - an abuse awareness seminar. (Far Right) Girls and women, ages 12-25, enjoyed a fall banquet at the Fairfield Community church, hosted by NCC Young Women's Ministries.



PHOTO LAURENCE DAILEY



PHOTO JOHNNY VU OF ROCKET BOOTH

Chef Chew Receives Commendation from City of Oakland



The Veg Hub ministry is already making a difference in its community! In mid-February, Chef G.W. Chew, who oversees The Veg Hub ministry, received a Local Hero commendation from the Oakland City Council.

Oakland Vice Mayor Annie Campbell Washington, who serves as councilmember for District 4, nominated Chew for the commendation. She presented the award to him at an annual event honoring a number of local heroes who are making a difference in District 4, where The Veg Hub bistro is located.

Chew was surprised and happy to accept the commendation on behalf of his ministry. "Even though I got the award, I was representing everyone on The Veg Hub team—those working in the bistro with me, the Northern California Conference administrators, and everyone who has been supporting our ministry," said Chew. "Together we are making an impact in our community."



NCC Adventurers Submit Ministry Drawings for Pin Design

Each year, the Adventurers Club of the Northern California Conference holds a pin-designing contest. Adventurers from around the conference submit their drawings, the Adventurer coordinators pick a winner, and that child's drawing is made into the Adventurer pin for the year.

This year brought lots of fun drawings, and the committee enjoyed seeing the child's ministry-related message in each submission. "These are kids that are learning about Jesus' love in their families, churches, and Adventurer clubs," said Alice Merrill, NCC associate director for children's/family/Adventurer ministries. "We look for a drawing that will also translate into a pin, and this year's winner is another great find." Merrill said she and the committee love looking at the drawings, and they look forward to the contest again next year.

The winner was Leilany Martinez, age 9, from the Sacramento Central church. Merrill will be presenting Leilany with a \$25 prize and the first pin for this year, based on her drawing. Congratulations Leilany!

For information about next year's drawing - held in January - visit www.nccsda.com/PinContest.



The winning drawing (above) by Leilany Martinez will be turned into the cloisonne pin (left) for 2017 Adventurers.



CHARITABLE GIVING THROUGH INDIVIDUAL

RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

IRA ROLLOVER

If you are over age 70½, the federal government permits you to roll over up to \$100,000 from your IRA to charity without increasing your taxable income or paying any additional tax. These tax-free rollover gifts could be \$1,000, \$10,000 or any amount up to \$100,000 this year. Your gift also applies toward your required minimum distribution for this year. Simply contact your account's custodian and request that an amount (up to \$100,000) be transferred to the Conference, local church, school or other charity of your choice.



**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE
PLANNED GIVING AND TRUST SERVICES**
www.SDALegacy.org • (888) 434-4622

Copyright © 2015 Crescendo Interactive, Inc. Used by permission. QP-2015-127.1-cp

10 a.m.
-2 p.m.

Sunday,
May
21

2017

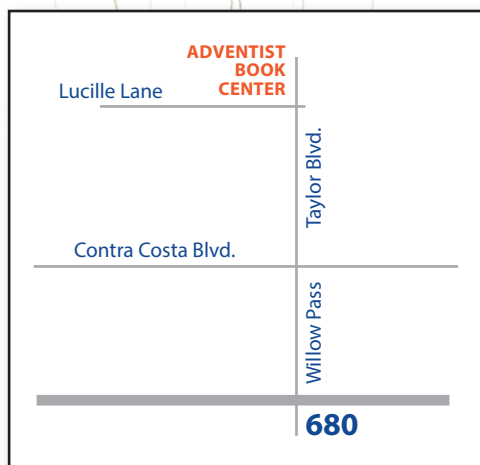
OPEN SUPER SALE HOUSE

Surprise
SALE discounts
for this day only!

ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER *Pleasant Hill*

Don't miss the great SPRING SALE on your favorite Christian books, gifts, and veggie food at your Pleasant Hill Adventist Book Center. There will be activities for the whole family!

- ✓ Door Prizes
- ✓ Live Music
- ✓ Cooking Demos & Food Samples
- ✓ Used Book Sale
- ✓ Health & Wellness Promotions
- ✓ Booths
- ✓ Plenty of Parking
- For Children**
- ✓ Inflatable Jumper
- ✓ Storytime
- ✓ Other Activities



401 Taylor Boulevard, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Visit www.nccsda.com/abc or call (925) 685-4409 for more information.

Nevada-Utah Views

Nevada-Utah Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
10475 Double R Boulevard, Reno NV 89521
Phone: 775-322-6929 • Fax: 775-322-9371



*Focused on Jesus,
we witness to the world!*

April 2017

Enjoying the Wondering Ministries In Our Territory

The first quarter of 2017 has been extremely busy.

In January, Julie and I attended the Mountain View SDA Church's rededication. Pastor BJ Boles, his pastoral staff - Pastor Melody Darrow, Angel Heredia and Amos Mwero - and the members of the Mountain View family worked diligently to complete the church's renovation in time for this event. It was a grand day. We closed the day with a concert by the Heritage Singers.

Then on January 8-11, the North American Division brought together the leadership from around the country to the Adventist Ministries Convention. Leaders discussed ministry plans and strategies for the new year and beyond. We praise God for

the vision to do much more for Christ.

Next, we visited the Living Waters Fellowship SDA Church. Pastor Marvin Clark preached a wonderful sermon. We praise God for the work of Elders Burnside Faulafo and James Mitchell and the Living Waters family.

On that Monday, we visited with the volunteers and the team from AMEN. This two-day event was a real success. I was told that 400 people were served. There were so many people from the community who desired to be served that the team of dentists and other medical professionals - after two days - had to turn some people away. I want to thank Westney White, the doctors, the volunteers, and the team of THRIVE who all worked to make the event a success and for their hard work in visioning and planning this event.

Abundant Life SDA Church was our next stop. We were graciously welcomed by Pastor Oneil Madden, his associate pastor Marvin Clark, and the entire Abundant Life family.

Some of the Northern Nevada Pathfinders along with their leaders and family members.



*by Elder Leon Brown,
NUC President*

THE PHOTOS INCLUDED WITH THIS ARTICLE FEATURE JUST SOME OF THE EVENTS ATTENDED BY NUC PRESIDENT LEON BROWN AND HIGHLIGHT MINISTRIES AND EVENTS.



**Continued on
the next page**



NUC Executive Officers meet with members of the FilAm SDA Church in Las Vegas, NV.

Continued from the previous page

The next day we attended the Las Vegas Educational Summit. It was a very constructive session. The educators, members, pastors of the Las Vegas area, as well as NUC and Pacific Union representatives, discussed strategies and ideas for the establishment of a high school in



Selfie with the Head Elder Craig Wilcox and members of the Heavenly Valley SDA Church in South Lake Tahoe, CA.

the Las Vegas area. This is not going to be an easy undertaking. However, I believe we must put our children first.

I shared with those present the following thought I heard at the 2016 Annual Council. In the GC education presentation, they asked the question, "What is the longest evangelistic event the church holds? The answer is easy. The longest evangelist event the church holds is the academic school year in all of our institutions." We have got to break through every barrier for the sake of the most important people in our hearts and lives - our children. Sharing the love of Jesus in every one of our schools in every one of our classrooms each and every school day is the goal of Christian education.

"Sharing the love of Jesus in every one of our schools in every one of our classrooms each and every school day is the goal of Christian education."

I would like to thank Dr. Eileen White for her dedicated service and for planning a wonderful meeting.

We closed the month of January with a visit to the Riverview SDA Church. We had an enjoyable day, sharing the Word of God and a great meal with the Riverview family.

We started the month of February by attending the NAD's Local Conference President's Retreat. At that meeting, there were three days of meetings discussing the current

Tahoe Camp Meeting

July 31st - August 5th, 2017

This year's Tahoe Camp Meeting theme is **"REST IN CHRIST"**

Join us as we share His word and journey together in the footsteps of Christ. Fellowship with others as we experience the beauty of God's creation, and be inspired to reflect on God's loving nature. Enjoy the evening meeting with Gerald and Chantel Klingbeil as they journey in to the meaning of "Rest in Christ". Also enjoy meetings with John Schachinger, Karen Nicola, Chantel Klingbeil, and Larry Siemens.

Lake Tahoe Camp Meeting

1175 Melba Dr. South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Contact: tahoe campmeeting@gmail.com

www.tahoe campmeeting.adventistfaith.org

www.facebook.com/lcmtcsda





(Top) Heritage Singers close the Mountain View church's grand reopening celebration. (Above) Platform participants at the Mountain View grand reopening weekend.

issues and concerns facing conferences - and in particular - conference presidents around the Division. The meetings were insightful. We came away with the awareness that God is leading in the advancement of the work of God in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Our next visit was to the FilAm SDA Church in Las Vegas, NV. The NUC executive officers were all in attendance during the day.

Continued on the last page



(Above) Members sitting together discussing issues at the Las Vegas Education Summit.



(Above) The Elko, NV, Pathfinders are winners of the Northern Nevada Pathfinder Bible Experience tournament. They have subsequently won the Conference Pathfinder Bible Experience Tournament in Utah and are representing NUC on March 25 in Las Vegas. (Left) Las Vegas FilAm choir sings for us a beautiful song they plan to sing at Loma Linda.





(Above and Right) The NUC Area Pathfinder Bible Experience in January.



Visit to Monument Valley

Following the divine service, we held a meeting with the members of the FilAm family. It was a very constructive meeting. We want to thank Dr. Guillermo Gucilarar as well as the members of the FilAm family for their hospitality.

At the end of February, I attended the NAD eHuddle. This is the Division's unique evangelism training session. In this four-day evangelism training meeting, we heard stories of numerous unique evangelistic events that were developed and implemented in North America. The principle goal of the eHuddle is to share new evangelistic models and techniques happening around the country. Hopefully, others will be able to borrow the principles from these sessions to develop new

"I applaud the work of the Pathfinder leaders, the parents and the young people who have worked diligently and sacrificed their time and resources in preparation for these tournaments."

and effective ways to share the everlasting Gospel. My hope and prayer is that one day

we can have our own conference-wide eHuddle session right here in the Nevada-Utah Conference.

Following the eHuddle session, I visited and preached at the Heavenly Valley SDA Church in South Lake Tahoe, CA. After the divine hour service, I met with the church to begin discussing ideas to expand the work of God in this area. Pray with me as we seek to find a model of ministry that we can replicate in our smaller congregations in NUC.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the Elko Pathfinder Club for winning the right to represent NUC in the Regional Pathfinder Experience Competition. These young people won in Reno and in Utah. They will face Pathfinder clubs from around the Pacific Union on March 25 at the Las Vegas Jr. Academy in Las Vegas, NV.

It is simply amazing to watch these young people. Some of them have memorized whole chapters of the Bible in preparation for the Pathfinder Bible Experience. I applaud the work of the Pathfinder leaders, the parents, and the young people who have worked diligently and sacrificed their time and resources in preparation for these tournaments. I pray for the success of our NUC representatives. May God bless your diligent effort to serve Him. The scriptural text you memorize today will plant seeds in your hearts that will grow into full bloom as you become adult men and women of God.

-Leon Brown, NUC President

***Continued from
the previous page***

Upcoming EVENTS

SonScreen Film Festival
April 6-8

**Hispanic Women Leadership
Retreat – Las Vegas**
April 7-9

NUC Cuba Mission Trip
April 2-May 1

Adventist West Point
April 16-18

Education Sabbath
April 22

**Teen Leadership Training
Convention**
April 28-30

**Hispanic Women Leadership
Certification – Utah**
May 5-7

Adventurers Family Camp
June 16-18

Lake Tahoe Camp Meeting
July 31-August 1

**Southern Utah Church Camp,
Duck Creek Forest Camp**
August 10-13

The NEVADA-UTAH VIEWS is a newsletter stitched into the **Recorder** and is only available to Nevada-Utah Conference members. Each conference within the Pacific Union provides a newsletter such as this in the **Recorder** every other month.

APRIL 2017

KEEPING *intouch*



Heidi Carpenter, *director*
Literature Ministries Department

BUILDING GOD'S CHURCH — *in 2017*

This past summer, I chose to build the habit of going on a prayer walk the first thing in the morning. While walking and talking with God, I had the opportunity to observe and interact with the neighborhood in which I live. Of course, there are lots of things you'll see in a neighborhood if you walk the same route at the same time every day!

I got to know a fair number of the neighborhood dogs and occasionally got to meet their owners. One man on his bike passed me every day on his way to work. He'd always smile and wave. But the thing that stuck out the most was a building project at the halfway mark in my route.

Day by day, steadily and consistently, things would change on the inside and outside of the house. It was going to be a beautiful house, with two stories and a two-car garage. While watching its progress each day, it seemed to me that it would take a great deal of determination and patience to see a building project through from start to finish. Seeing that building rise day by

day reminded me of another building. One that has been built over the span of thousands of years: God's church.

Christ laid the foundation — *Himself* — and “upon the foundation that Christ Himself had laid, the apostles build the church of God (Acts of the Apostles, pg. 595). But the apostles didn't live forever. One after another gave their lives for the cause of their Savior. Stephen was stoned, James was killed with the sword, Paul's head was cut off, Peter was crucified upside-down, and John was exiled on the island of Patmos.

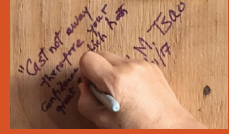
“*Yet the church grew.* New workers took the place of those who fell, and stone after stone was added to the building.” (Ibid, pg. 597). Through fierce persecution, the church never failed of having “men who counted the work of building God's temple dearer than life itself” (Ibid, pg. 597). During the time of the Reformation, many builders continued the work. “Like the apostles, many of them fell at their post, but the building of the temple went *steadily forward*” (Ibid, 598).

IN THIS ISSUE

*Acton Group
Members Reach
Out*



*Members
“Autograph”
Their Church for
Posterity*



Pastors Retreat



My heart melts when I think of those who have gone before me. Their dedication to build God's church through trial and difficulty was epic. It inspires me to the core of my being! “Through the ages that have passed since the days of the apostles, the building of God's temple has never ceased...” (Ibid, pg. 598). *The building has never stopped.* It seems to me this is the longest-standing construction project in history!

“But the structure is not yet complete” (Ibid, 599). There is a part for us to play in this masterpiece of centuries. I must stop and ask myself, *Am I adding my sweat, tears, love, time, money...everything, in the same way as those who have gone before?*

cont. on page 2

Or has prosperity created a comfortable climate that has lulled me into less aggressive building? What does God desire of me as a builder?

"Christ has given to the church a sacred charge. Every member should be a channel through which God can communicate to the world the treasures of His grace... There is nothing the world needs so much as the manifestation *through humanity* of the Saviour's love. All heaven is waiting for men and women through whom God can reveal the power of Christianity" (Ibid, pg. 600). God, use us, use me, to build Your church!

Heidi Carpenter, director
Literature Ministries

In Transition

(Voted Jan. 23, 2017)

New Employees

Lemuel Niere

Pastor, Glendale Filipino church, as of Feb. 1, 2017

Dae Hwan Sul

Pastor, Valley United Korean church, as of Jan. 1, 2017

Renee C. Lacson

SCC Staff Auditor, as of Feb. 15, 2017

Changes within the Conference

Nancy Danelson

From Teacher, Adventist Christian School, to Teaching Principal, as of Jan. 1, 2017

Albert Frederico

From Assoc. Pastor, Norwalk church, to Interim Pastor, Rolling Hills, as of Oct. 1, 2016

Luis Liñan-Olivera

From Pastor/West Hollywood Spanish church, to Pastor, Hollywood Spanish church, as of Feb 1, 2017

Juan Osorio

From Pastor, Hollywood Spanish church, to pastor, Central Spanish church, as of Feb. 1, 2017

Leaving the Conference

Aivars Ozolins

From Pastor, Rolling Hills church, as of Sept. 16, 2016

Demetrio Robles

From Pastor, Glendale Filipino church, as of Jan. 31, 2017

Acton Group Members *Reach Out*



The Acton Valley congregation, a "daughter" of the Palmdale church, celebrated their 10th anniversary in October, 2016, and have been busy evangelizing.

Even though they do not have a regular pastor (a variety of pastors and other leaders rotate on the speaking schedule), the church has been prayerfully seeking ways to reach out

to their Acton neighbors, according to Brenda Morford. "God has been good to us," she said, "and we want everyone to know our doors are open and all are welcome."

To let their neighbors know just how welcome they are, Acton members have conducted a DVD series by Doug Bachelor, which they advertised extensively in the community, including

on local cable television and *YouTube*. "We are planning to host a lifestyle series, too," she added.

The Acton congregation meets in a 100-year-old Presbyterian church, located at 32142 Crown Valley Road in Acton. Services start with Sabbath School at 9:30 a.m. and their worship service is at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch and fellowship.

MEMBERS “AUTOGRAPH”

Their Church for Posterity

By Amabel Tsao

The Chino Valley Chinese church is in the process of building their new sanctuary and fellowship hall. On Sabbath, Feb. 11, 2017, Pastor Paul Cho led the congregation in a unique ceremony in which members were invited to autograph the unfinished walls of the sanctuary with personal messages, scriptures and signatures.

“My own church did something you might want to consider,” Dan Carlones, the building project’s general contractor, said as he explained to the congregation’s leaders about “autographing” the building. “We will tape off the side rooms and clean up the space, to provide a safe environment for your church members,” he promised.

This suggestion set off a flurry of preparations in the main sanctuary. The plywood walls, windows and door frames, and between studs, all were made safely accessible. The youth group mopped and swept away the puddles that had resulted from rainfall the night before.

Everyone held hands as the elders prayed for special ministries and

the new church. Following which, Dominic Chu’s rendition of “The Lord’s Prayer” soared in the open hall, inspiring all in attendance. From the youngest to the oldest, all were eager to draw or write – and every heart was warmed by the event, despite the chilly conditions.

“Why are we doing this?” some asked. “Everything will be covered over by drywall or stucco.”

Once it was explained that every autograph would be encapsulated until Jesus comes, each member eagerly went to find a space of their own on which to write or draw. New members were also eager to write something.

That afternoon, members and visitors alike were moved by an outpouring of generosity, and \$11,000 was raised.



“Unless the Lord builds the house, the builder’s labor is in vain, (Ps. 127.1)” wrote Daniel Choo, MD, head elder.

Regions Host Mini Clinics in Three Communities

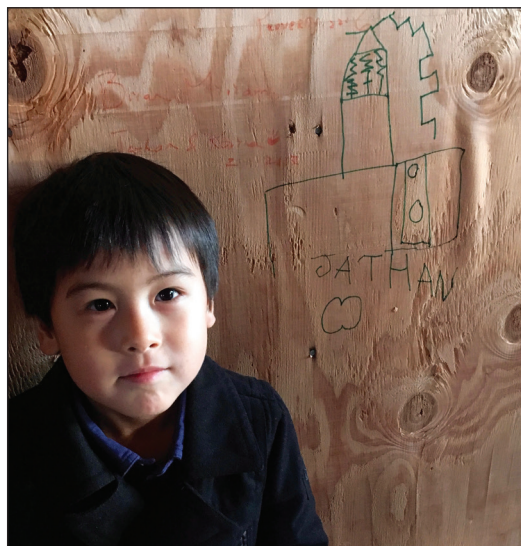
Three AMEN (Adventist Medical Evangelism Network) mini clinics have been planned by churches in three regions of the Southern California Conference area. Ten churches in the L. A. Metro Region collaborated on an AMEN clinic on Mar. 19 and 20 at the Downey church. On June 2 and 4 West Region churches will host the “Impact Your Health” AMEN Clinic at San Fernando Valley Academy in Northridge. The team, headed by J. R. Cahatol, RN, and Lily Cirstiou, RN, are welcoming volunteer medical and dental professionals, as well as nonmedical helpers. To learn of the team’s specific needs, please email gcahatol@gmail.com.

A third AMEN mini clinic is being planned by the Indonesian American church for around Labor Day.

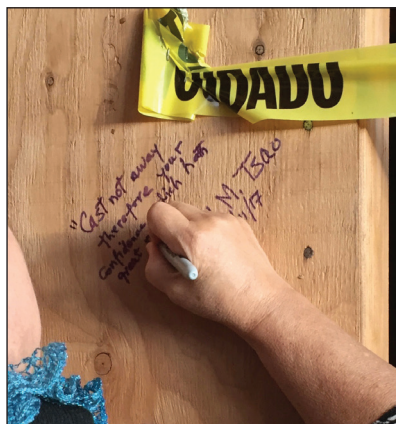
Please pray for these churches, clinics and their communities!



Betty Cooney,
Health Response
Steering Committee



It was such a special occasion and was uplifting,” said Mei Mei Cho, five-year-old Jathan’s grandmother



A member of the Building Committee was inspired to write, “Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward” (Heb. 10:35) as her “autograph.”

Photos by Photographs by Andy Huong and Amabel Tsao

SCC EVANGELISM

Hispanic Region

Churches in 40 churches in the Hispanic Region have been developing small groups to have their congregations ready for the annual Holy Week evangelistic meetings which will be during the week of April 9-15 this year. The pastors have been training members for this concerted effort and planning for the 40 Eastertime evangelistic campaigns that they will conduct during "Holy Week."

To prepare for the small group meetings, pastors and small-group leaders studied four sets of lessons. The lessons first were given to pastors of the small group outreach; second, the pastor has shared them in training the leaders of their Small Groups; third, the lessons were shared with Small Group members, to train them in using them; and fourth, every member of each of the 40 churches received and was instructed in using them.

When trained, members began inviting visitors to the small groups, making friends, making their visitors feel part of the family. As they become acquainted, group members invited visitors to consider Bible studies as something that would help them with whatever they may be struggling with or stressed about.

Pastors and the Region have invited guest evangelists for the Holy Week meetings. Please pray for the outcomes of these campaigns!



Radio Adventista Los Angeles is the Hispanic Region's official internet radio station, airing 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can download the App for iPhone or Android, or listen to the radio through the website as well (www.RadioAdventistaLA.org). The station has music, sermons, devotionals, news and more. Listeners can enjoy Christian radio completely in Spanish.

Churches and ministries can promote their activities with the Radio Adventista Los Angeles audience by emailing their information to radioadventistala@gmail.com.

The Hispanic region will celebrate **Radio Adventista's** second anniversary on May 6, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. at the **White Memorial Church**. Pastor Stephen Bohr, speaker/director of the "Secrets Unsealed" multimedia ministry, will be the featured speaker. International singer Junior Kelly Marchena, will also be featured on the program.

Escucha Radio Adventista Los Angeles, la radio oficial de la Region Hispana de la Conferencia del Sur de California. Baja la App para iPhone o Android, también puedes escuchar por la pagina web www.RadioAdventistaLA.org. Música, Sermones, Meditaciones, Noticias, y mas. Disfruta de tu radio Cristiana!



*Luis Peña
director*

Pastor Come Away to Recharge

SCC pastors enjoyed a retreat Mar. 5-7 at Pine Springs Ranch that proved to be both a spiritual and an electronic retreat, since cell phone access was not generally available. A presentation by Pastor Gilda Roddy, a member of the Loma Linda University church pastoral staff, presented a message entitled, "Come to the Table." For her presentation, tables were assembled in the form of a cross, visualizing the theme, "Everyone is welcome at the table of Jesus Christ," throughout her remarks.

During the retreat, pastors were called to come away from their physical, mental and media-related challenges and confusion and make time to listen to and speak with God each day. Chris Famisaran, pastor of the El Monte church and associate pastor of the Temple City church, shares his reflections on the retreat:

"For some time I'd needed to take a break, and our ministers' meeting was a great opportunity to find some rest and catch up with friends.

"I was blessed by the Kaleo group that led out in worship. Their mixture of new and classic hymns was woven together seamlessly. It was evident that they had spent time in prayer preparing for this event.

"Pavel Goia, the guest speaker for the first two days, was also a blessing. I was strongly convicted to pray more in my life and ministry. I ended up taking several pages of notes while attending worship. Goia shared some of his life experiences with a witty sense of humor that warmed my heart and strengthened my faith. His honesty was also refreshing.

"A highlight of the retreat was a soccer game with pastors from the other regions. I normally don't get to interact with pastors from outside my own region (L. A. Metro), and it was great to laugh and joke while playing with other pastors.

"The evening afterglow was another opportunity to catch up with friends and meet new ones. We sang and talked well into the night over cookies and hot drinks by the fire.

The pinnacle of the weekend, however, was Monday evening, when we had the opportunity to participate in communion. Pastor Gilda Roddy spoke with conviction, and it was a blessing to have her family minister to us.

"As I headed down the mountain Tuesday afternoon, I reflected on what I had learned, and on what I can do differently. I know that I certainly will be praying more, and relying less on myself. But I also realized that I need to consistently take time to rest, even intentionally silence the phone for a time. It's easy to stay busy in ministry, but it's also easy to get burned out. May we all take time to find rest and peace through Jesus."



*James G. Lee, Jr.
Evangelism director*



CONFERENCE PRIORITIES

SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

A Compass For Our Future

A little over three years ago we committed to follow Jesus together as a conference leading with the question: “What do we need to strategically focus on in Southeastern California Conference in order to best carry out our mission as we move into the future?”

Over the past two years, we have been talking to you, surveying and listening to your responses and we are now ready to move forward in this prayerful and organic process. We begin by sharing the four strategic priorities as well as the identified conference values.

Strategic Priorities

With our eyes fixed on Jesus, the One True North, we move forward into the future, following Jesus step-by-step and attentive to the Spirit’s leading.

We **ENGAGE** next generation leaders as a welcoming Christian community, through thriving ministries for youth and young adults, and in the development of leadership opportunities to serve that shape our shared future.

We live out our calling to **EVANGELIZE** in new and creative ways, intentionally

participating with love and grace in the shared life of our communities, proclaiming the everlasting gospel through our public ministries and individual lives.

We **EDUCATE** for lifelong faithfulness and success, embracing the highest standards of academic excellence, sustainability and accessibility throughout our Christ-centered and distinctly Seventh-day Adventist Christian educational network.

We **EQUIP** members of every age to embrace their calling to mission and service, empowering discipleship through mentoring, training and resourcing.

Our Values

These values shape our mission and life together as a church.

We value the *collaborative relationships* that are affirmed and nurtured within our shared life in Jesus Christ, and the participation of every member in the planning and implementation of our ministries in churches, schools and institutions.

We value cross-generational and

multicultural ministries and seek leadership and engagement in *innovation and creativity* from every person within our community.

We value the growth and development that comes of discipleship, and embrace a *culture of learning and discovery* as we embody the hope and promise of the gospel in our ministries and our individual lives.

We value and accept our calling to be the body of Jesus Christ, and locate within our *local churches* the resources to live hopefully and faithfully, and to bear witnesses to God’s saving grace and the everlasting gospel.

We value the circle of fellowship and family that encircles the globe and regard our role within the sisterhood of churches as a sacred opportunity to model inclusion and acceptance within our *worldwide community*.

We value all people as *daughters and sons of God*, and find within the church a community, which nurtures and serves each one of us even as it insists that we nurture and serve our common life in Jesus Christ.

We value the sacred gift of the Holy Spirit, sent by Christ for our comfort and guidance, and are *persistent in prayer* and honest seeking of God’s presence, even as we seek to bless the communities that God calls us to reach with love and grace.

*By Sandra Roberts,
SECC President*



A COMPASS
FOR OUR FUTURE

Engage: Pray For Our Youth and Young Adults

Over the next three months I would like to ask you to spend a day each month in focused prayer. As we begin to rollout our strategic initiatives I invite you to join me in praying for God’s guidance so that our conference, churches, schools and members can engage, evangelize and educate more effectively in our territory. For the month of April, I invite you to choose a day and pray individually and with your church family for our youth and young adults. We must find ways to meaningfully engage our next generation leaders and involve them in our churches.



APRIL

Should We Keep Paying Tithe to the Church?

We are a church of generous people. You can tell from the many top-notch programs put on by congregations in our conference. Children's events, evangelistic series, health fairs, building projects, mission trips, etc.—they all meet a felt need, and they all depend on the generosity of members just to get out of planning stages. We give, donate and assist because we believe in what we're doing.

If there's any question at all about our church's giving habits, it's not *if* we should give but *how*. Some are not sure where their money goes after they donate, and some wonder whether they should give their tithe to the church or to a specific charity or initiative. The following questions can help us as we prayerfully plan our giving.

Do we believe in our church's mission?

There's a reason we belong to our congregations and to our broader denomination. We are Christian believers in Jesus' soon second coming, and we want to spread this message of hope and help those in need. As pastor and church consultant Eddie Kaufholz puts it: "Your church needs you. In fact, your church *is* you." Your tithing is an act that demonstrates recognition of your role and relationship with your church and its mission.

Is the mission being accomplished?

Do we see or hear stories of lives being changed? When we observe what's being accomplished by our church in a positive and effective manner—even if we wish it were more, or done differently—it ultimately lines up with what our collective faith has set out to do.

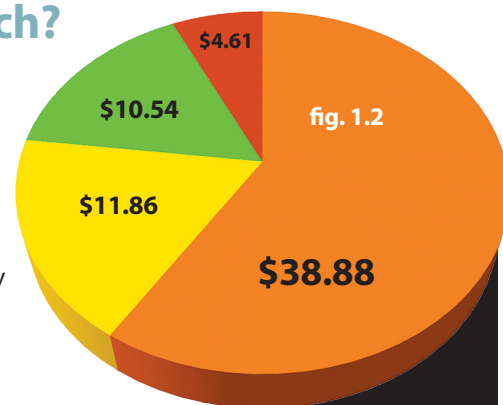
Is the church transparent with my money?

Just like we would look closely at any nonprofit or charity we support, we want to know if our church is being a good steward with its resources. Take a look at the graphs to find out exactly where your tithe dollars go.

So how is my tithe spent?

If you give \$100 in the tithe envelope during church, or in the "tithe" category online, the funds are distributed as follows (see fig. 1.1):

- \$11.60 goes to support the Pacific Union.
- \$11.40 goes to support the North American Division.
- \$11.10 goes to support denominational retirement



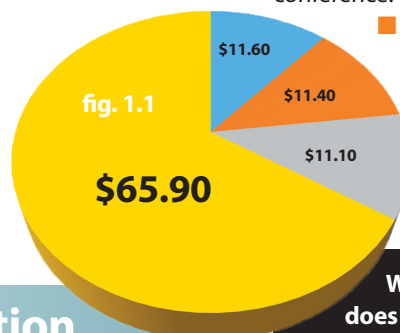
investments (division-wide).

■ \$65.90 goes to support the Southeastern California Conference.

Of the \$65.90 that stays in the SECC, where does the money go?

A small portion of this \$100 moves up the ranks to fund our larger governing bodies. The local conference keeps a substantial amount (see fig. 1.2) in order to support our local leadership, allowing them to serve us in a dedicated capacity.

Out of the \$65.90 that stays at the conference:



Where does \$100 in tithe go?

■ \$38.88 goes to ministry support, such as salaries and benefits for pastors and Bible workers.

■ \$11.86 goes to SECC's departmental budget, which helps provide resources for congregations. This includes youth and young adult ministries,

general evangelism, Pine Springs Ranch, literature evangelism, health programs, Pathfinders, VBS and much more.

■ \$10.54 goes to Adventist Education, which helps support the operation of SECC schools.

■ \$4.61 goes to administration, which supports the conference leadership and keeps the office running.

As we continue this series, we will dig further into each of these categories, providing a glimpse of the many important paths your tithe dollars take.

By Amy Prindle

Why I Tithe: A Personal Reflection

I was raised in a family that always paid their tithe, but today it has become a personal conviction for me. I believe that money or things I own are blessings from God. He does so much for me and asks so little in return, so it's the least I can do to give Him 10 percent back. And according to the Bible, it's already His so it's not my right to keep it.

While my husband and I have never had to choose between tithing or paying bills, I see God's blessing in how we always end up doing okay,

even when tough situations come up. We recently moved to the area for my husband to attend medical school, so we survive on loan money and my income as a nanny. There have been times where our car breaks down or other unplanned expenses come up. But even if it pushes us in the red for the month, somehow the money always turns up—and I don't believe that is coincidental.

Kelsi Leigh Farnsworth attends CrossWalk church in Redlands.

Ignite Conference Encourages Local Impact

Are you aware of the needs in the community within the three-mile radius from where you are standing? The Black Adventist Ministerial Fellowship held their fifth annual Ignite conference on Jan. 29. The theme, "Radius: Discovering Ministry in Your Local Community," addressed this issue.

Ignite's purpose is to bring together as many black churches in SECC as possible for training and growth through seminars and worship. This year over 170 people attended the event in Riverside.

Baron Sovory, BAMF treasurer and associate pastor at Mt. Rubidoux church, said that "Radius" referred to the area around each church.

"Ignite looks to serve the local church, and if that's the center point, how do we step outside that circle and do meaningful ministry?" Sovory asked.

To discuss applicable topics on this theme, BAMF brought in three guest speakers: Jaime Kowlessar, senior pastor at City Temple church in Dallas, Texas; Timothy Gillespie, pastor at CrossWalk church; and Edward Woods III, director of public affairs and religious liberty at the Lake Region Conference.

Kowlessar spoke on systemic issues within society and the church and gave insight on how to bring about change. Gillespie spoke on "big data" and shared how he has done a deep analysis of the people around their church location. Woods shared practical ways each

church can engage public servants in their city to move forward the gospel of Jesus.

"The speakers covered their topics in relevant ways and gave helpful insight," Sovory said. "I felt like it was a well-executed program that nailed its target and its purpose."

BAMF made several changes to the Ignite conference this year, the most notable of which was a change in location. Previously, the conference had been held in a local church, but this year it was in the Zapara School of Business at La Sierra University.

Andrea King, president of BAMF and senior pastor at San Bernardino 16th Street church, said moving it to La Sierra University helped add ambiance and put the conference in a more central location.

BAMF also changed Ignite to a half-day rather than a full-day event. "I think we were able to be succinct and compact but still very powerful," King said.

The development for next year's conference is already underway. King stated that the BAMF team has been extensively reaching out to pastors to see what the most pressing matters are in their individual congregations, which will then help decide the focus for next year.

"We're still in the phase of identifying what our clear theme is going to be, but we're looking to build off of this year's success and really improve on it," Sovory said.

By Avery Botticelli

(Above left) The audience joins in singing with the praise team during the Ignite conference on Jan. 29. (Left) Left to right: Tim Gillespie, pastor at CrossWalk church; Jaime Kowlessar, senior pastor at City Temple church in Dallas, Texas; and Edward Woods III, director of public affairs and religious liberty at Lake Region Conference, answer questions during the discussion panel led by Robert Edwards, conference evangelist.

Seth Yelorda, senior pastor at Westminster Good Samaritan church, gives an audience member her prize after winning the book Transforming Power: Biblical Strategies for Making a Difference in Your Community by Robert Linthicum.



ALL PHOTOS BY KENNETH GRIMES

Upcoming Events

13th Annual Junior High Band Festival

(April 5) 7 p.m., Loma Linda Junior High gymnasium, 10656 Anderson St., Loma Linda. Join us in celebrating with more than seven schools in the festival of bands. Free admission. Info: Teri Vasquez, 951-509-2313.

Endangered Wildlife Animal Program

(April 8) 5 p.m., Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus St., Loma Linda. Come learn about endangered animals! All are welcome. Info: Shawna Campbell, 909-558-4570.

Parenting & Church Leader's Workshop

(April 22) 3-7 p.m.; (April 23) 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus St., Loma Linda. This event is for pastors and family and children's leaders, lead by Michelle Anthony, author and presenter with over 30 years of church ministry and leadership experience in children's and family ministries. Info: Manny Vitug, mvitug@seccsda.org.

La Sierra Academy Alumni Weekend

(April 28, 29) LSA campus, 4900 Golden Ave., Riverside. Get ready for a meaningful and memorable weekend! All are welcome to attend. Info: Alumni office, 951-351-1445 ex. 244, Judith Nelson, JNelson@lsak12.com.

La Sierra Academy Ladies' Tea

(April 30) 2 p.m., LSA campus, 4900 Golden Ave., Riverside. Join with other guests for a day of fun and tea! Register by calling the elementary office, 951-351-1445 ext. 213 or 214.

Why Sabbath School is Important

(May 5) 4-6 p.m. SECC Assembly Room, 11330 Pierce St., Riverside. Why is Sabbath School Important? Listen to James Zackrison, special consultant for Voice of Prophecy Discover Bible School and Sabbath School Toolbox editor from the NAD, speak on how to make Sabbath school work in your church. Spanish interpretation available. RSVP to Janelle Muthiah, 951-509-2330, jmuthiah@seccsda.org.



(Right) Isai Michel, church member and an electrical engineer, who spent hours building the transmitter, shares with other church members the technical elements of the new radio station.



(Far Right) Sandra Roberts, president of SECC, shares a dedication prayer with members at the opening of the radio station.



ALL PHOTOS BY ENNO MÜLLER

Fallbrook Church Dedicates Newly Built Radio Station

Members of the Fallbrook church gathered together to dedicate and celebrate their new FM radio station on Jan. 7 after years of hard work and persistence.

"The Fallbrook church takes the words of Jesus seriously when He says, 'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden,' (Matt. 5:14, NIV). We believe we have a beautiful message that needs to be heard everywhere," Samuel Nuñez, senior pastor at Fallbrook church, said.

The idea for a radio station started back in 2013, when one of the church elders, Dan Houghton, saw an opportunity during a Federal Communications Commission filing window that was opening up in November of that year. Houghton

reached out to church member Isai Michel, an electrical engineer who

had helped with several media projects in the past. Michel saw this as a real possibility, and they moved forward from there.

They hired a broadcast engineer as a consultant to look at various sites and research everything they needed to file with the FCC. Their first request was denied due to the proposed location of the antenna, so Michel went back and found a plot of land not too far from the church that would likely fulfill FCC requirements.

When they filed again, the FCC approved and granted them an 18-month building permit for the station. However, by the time the lease agreement had been worked out with the land owners, it was already October 2015, and the building permit was due to expire within a few months. The building had not yet begun on the property, so members worked together to complete everything as soon

as possible.

Church members provided donations for the project, and Michel took on most of the work in his garage. On some weekends a core group of church members came along and help him assemble the equipment. Because of building restrictions,

the church decided to use two trailers to house all the equipment, as well as the antenna itself.

"We had to be totally solar powered," Michel said. "We had batteries in the trailers, radio frequency equipment, the FM transmitter, a backup generator, sound equipment and so on. The whole project was like assembling a car in the garage."

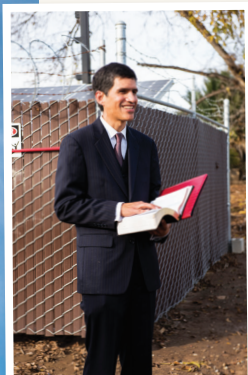
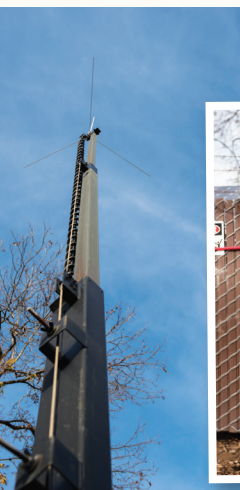
The complexity of the project brought together individuals who volunteered their time and passion in order to effectively reach potentially thousands of people who may never have stepped in a church.

"We're the only radio station in Fallbrook, and the content is Christian," Nuñez said. "We're also located next to the freeway, which gives us an opportunity to reach over 281,000 commuters every day."

While the station is currently partnered with LifeTalk Radio for content, there is an opportunity to produce original programming in the future. The capability is there to broadcast from the church. Nuñez and Michel both anticipate growth.

"With radio, you can get tens of thousands of people you otherwise wouldn't reach," Michel said. "Even if it doesn't bring people into the church, maybe they will hear something new about God's love."

By Mario A. Munoz



(Far left) The radio tower is located near the 15 freeway by Fallbrook, which allows commuters to listen to spiritual messages. (Left) Samuel Nuñez, senior pastor at Fallbrook church, shares a short devotional during the dedication service of the new radio station.

SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

11330 PIERCE STREET • RIVERSIDE, CA 92505-3303 • 951.509.2200 • WWW.SECCADVENTIST.ORG

SANDRA ROBERTS, PRESIDENT • JONATHAN PARK, SECRETARY • VERLON STRAUSS, TREASURER

CONFERENCE PRIORITIES • ENNO MÜLLER, EDITOR